

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 October 12, 2022, at 4:59 pm in the high school library.

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

Trustees absent: none

Also in attendance were Superintendent Tom Stack, Business Manager Lacey Porrovecchio, Principals Brenda Clarke, Charlie Appleby and Mark Hansen, staff members and community members.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

A motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Personnel 1 C Vivian Bracetti was made by Trustee Woods, seconded by Trustee Relyea, and approved by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

A motion to approve the consent agenda with the removal of Personnel 1 C was made by Trustee Kreiman, seconded by Trustee Elwell, and approved by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

- Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2022
- Consideration of All Bill Approval Lists
- Consideration of District Donations
 1. Anderson Masonry, Inc. Donation to Wrestling Program - \$5000
 2. P51D Mustang, LLC Donation to Wrestling Program - \$5000
 3. Stonehorse Donation to Wrestling Program - \$5000
 4. Zack and Sally Anderson Donation to Wrestling Program - \$5000
 5. Moana Morgans Donation to Wrestling Program - \$3000
 6. WyJo Construction, Inc Donation to Soccer Program - \$1000
- Consideration of Student Activity Report for August, 2022
- Consideration of Out of District Students
 1. Evergreen 2
 2. Swan Lake/Salmon Prairie 6
 3. Columbia Falls 2
 4. Olney/Bissell 1
 5. Cayuse 5
 6. Creston 14
 7. Fair-Mont-Egan 5
 8. Kalispell Elementary 2
 9. Swan River 18
 10. Lakeside/Somers 27
 11. Flathead High School 64
- 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. Caitlin Coghlan, K-12 Substitute
 - b. Rebecca Gilliard, 9-12 Substitute
 - c. Vivian Bracetti, K-6 Substitute
 - d. Rafael Moscatel, K-12 Substitute
 2. Classified Personnel Recommended for Consideration
 - a. Rob Tracy, Transportation Route Driver
 3. Extra-Curricular Personnel Recommended for Consideration
 - a. Solveig Munson, Head Speech & Debate Coach
 - b. Jeff Schroeder, Assistant Speech & Debate Coach

- c. Heather Epperly, Elementary Music Advisor
 - d. John Michael Knopik, 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
 - e. Scott Reichner, 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
4. Extra-Curricular Volunteers Recommended for Consideration
- a. Amanda Davey, 5th Grade Boys Basketball
 - b. Mandi Hare, 5th Grade Boys Basketball
 - c. Troy Gunlock, 6th Grade Boys Basketball
 - d. Tanya McAnally, 6th Grade Boys Basketball
 - e. Lance Dawson, 8th Grade Boys Basketball

NEW BUSINESS

- A. High School Field Trip Request, Italy, 2024 – Mrs. Taylor assured trustees she would make it clear to parents that if the trip is cancelled for any reason, the school will not be responsible. She had 2 options for trips, one for 7 days and one for 11 days, over spring break. The cost for the trip has gone up for multiple reasons including airfare, inflation and EFT Tours costs. There will be 1 chaperone per 6 students at a minimum.

Trustee Elwell asked about vaccine requirements. Mrs. Taylor said each country has different requirements and she won't know until closer to the trip.

Board discussion followed.

A motion to approve High School Field Trip to Italy in 2024 with Principal Hansen approving the length of the trip was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Relyea, and approved with unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

- B. 2022-23 MQEC Membership – Mr. Stack told the board the district has been members of MQEC for the last 6 years. MQEC is part of the MPEC group, School Administrators of Montana, the teachers union and classified union and Montana School Board Association, that lobbies for funding at the Legislature. It's \$2500 per year and typically the district pays over the summer, but MQEC has new leadership.

Board discussion followed.

Dennis Nelson told the board the sole purpose of MQEC when it was founded was to increase funding to public schools. He said MQEC filed suit when the mothers of students at Stillwater Christian took tax credits. He would not want that kind of organization representing the school.

A motion to approve the 2022-23 MQEC Membership was made by Trustee Relyea, seconded by Trustee Kreiman, and approved with affirmative votes from Trustees Field, Relyea, Anderson and Kreiman.

Trustees Sandry, Woods and Elwell opposed.

- C. 15 Passenger Bus Driver Compensation – Mr. Stack told trustees Mr. Porrovecchio talked about 15 passenger bus driver compensation at a prior board meeting. The proposal is to pay a small fee to coaches that drive in recognition of coaching and driving. Coaches only drive when a district driver is not available. The proposed pay will cost the district less than paying a CDL driver.

Board Chair Sandry asked for clarification on the pay. Mr. Stack said it is approximately \$0.43 per mile.

Board discussion followed.

A motion to approve 15 Passenger Bus Driver Compensation as proposed was made by Trustee Woods, seconded by Trustee Elwell, and approved with unanimous vote of the elementary and high school

trustees.

- D. HealthEquity Inc Flexible Benefits Plan Resolution – Mrs. Porrovecchio explained the district changed flex administrators to HealthEquity Inc a year ago. HealthEquity had employee turnover and recently realized they didn't have plan documents on file. The plan documents detail eligibility, qualified services, contributions, etc. They have been reviewed by district legal counsel.

A motion to approve the HealthEquity Inc. Flexible Benefits Plan Resolution was made by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Woods, and approved with unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

- E. High School Sports Levy Discussion – Board Chair Sandry said at the September board meeting four members voted to fund unfunded athletics to a degree. Several trustees want the board to consider additional funding through a levy. The levy would be next spring and is up for discussion only at this point.

Board discussion followed. Discussion included allowing taxpayers to make the decision to fund or not, requesting the maximum high school levy, upcoming negotiations and the need for increased salaries to attract employees.

Jill Morley suggested a pay to play fee.

Rob Tracy asked how much the levy would cost. Trustee Anderson said he thought it was \$1.42 per \$100,000.

Shannon Varner, BUC President, said she supports athletics, but the need for higher wages to attract job applicants needs to be considered.

Jill Morley said paraprofessionals need a raise.

Leslie Stodgehill said with the school supplementing the unfunded athletics they should be better off. She is concerned about the daily call for support for most positions across the district.

Rebecca Gilliard told trustees the community is supportive of the school. People make generous donations but get angry when they see their tax bill.

More board discussion followed. Board Chair Sandry said the option to run a high school levy will be on a future agenda.

Trustee Kreiman asked if paraprofessional wages could be addressed now.

Mr. Stack said wages will be addressed in negotiations. He told the board the district is shorthanded. He would rather the board task him with finding a way to cover the unfunded athletics than run a levy. Both unions and administration will want more money. He said the school is here to educate kids first. He would rather see money go towards employees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Mr. Hansen spoke about the PreACT, parent teacher conferences, Veteran's Day Assembly, homecoming week, PLCs and fall sports. He told them they may have student groups on future agendas asking about Open Campus and Dress Code.

Mrs. Clarke reported on elementary assemblies, the new math program and the new assessment program. She is working with Mr. Appleby on district goals for proficiency. She compared assessment results to Billings School District.

Mr. Appleby told the board about the upcoming middle school dance, spirit week, lunch with new students, fall sports, the fire drill, Rotary meetings, Halloween Thriller presentation and working with other administrators in the area.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Stack said it's been a great start to the year. He told them he is working with Mr. Appleby and OPI piloting a new testing program. It involves doing multiple assessments and could replace the SBAC someday. He told the board he watched football on Friday, soccer on Saturday and did the golf tournament on Sunday.

Trustees discussed the future board meeting schedule. The November 9th board meeting conflicts with parent teacher conferences and may be changed.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- 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 Relyea, seconded by Trustee Anderson, and **approved** by unanimous vote of the elementary and high school trustees.

Adjourned: 6:15 pm

Board Chair Sandry called for Executive Session in accordance with 2-3-203, MCA to discuss litigation strategy.

Closed session began at 6:15 pm.

Closed session ended at 6:19 pm.

District Clerk

Chairperson