



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The mission of this Board of Trustees is to champion the cause of students in public education by establishing the framework through which all educational resources are maximized.

Regular School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

*Kalispell Middle School
Library Media Center
205 Northwest Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
7/11/2017 06:00 PM*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chair Lance Isaak, Bette Albright, Frank Miller, Mark Kornick, Diane Morton Stout, Mary Tepas, Mary Ruby, Anna Marie Bailey, Jon Endresen

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Jack Fallon, Joe Brenneman

Officials Present: Superintendent Mark Flatau, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson, Finance Director Gwyn Andersen, :FHS Assistant Principal Michele Paine

Others Present: FHS Teachers Megan Koppes, Leah Schvaneveldt, Kelli Higgins, and Jennifer Stephens, Erick Enz, Tom Heineke, Loren Cantrell from Langlas.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Isaak called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Action)

Chair Isaak asked the Board to make a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2017 and June 27, 2017 meetings.

Board

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2017 and June 27, 2017 meetings.

Board

Trustee Kornick seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

4. RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

(Information)

Chair Isaak introduced the next item on the agenda, Recognitions and Reports.

a. RECOGNITIONS

(Presentation)

None

b. STUDENT REPORTS

(Information)

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Isaak asked if any member of the audience wished to comment on a matter not on the agenda, further stating that the Board could not take action on any matter brought up in public comment because the public had not previously been notified of the matter. No Public Comment was offered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Isaak introduced the next item on the agenda, New Business.

a. 2017-18 DISTRICT BUDGET OVERVIEW

(Information)

Finance Director Gwyn Andersen brought before the Board, the District Budget Overview for 2017-18 school year, as presented. Andersen stated that this is a month in advance in hopes of giving the Board a more active role in the budgeting process. Andersen stated that several members of the Finance Committee have formed a Budget Sub-Committee and have been meeting to delve deeper into the budget. That Sub-Committee will meet again on July 31st at 7:30 am in the Assistant Superintendent's office.

b. CONTRACTS

(Action)

Andersen presented the board with four contracts for approval, these contracts were looked at in depth at the Finance Committee meeting. One of these contracts is for the removal and replacement of Saturated Soil. This is soil on the new elementary construction site that was determined to be too wet (from snow melt) to dry out in a sufficient amount of time for construction timeline, and so the saturated soil was removed and replaced with dry soil. The Finance Committee had agreed that any work totaling less than \$10,000 could be approved by Superintendent Flatau and Owner's Representative Erick Enz with an update to the Finance Committee at the next meeting. Anything over \$10,000 would require going before the Finance Committee.

Trustee Tepas also made the suggestion that contracts be separated by Elementary and High School for purposes for the Agenda.

Trustee Albright made a motion to approve the three high school contracts: 1st Class Electric, FHS Utility Relocation, and Denning and Downey and Associates, as presented.

Trustee Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Tepas made a motion to approve the South Elementary change order for the Saturated Soil.

Trustee Morton Stout seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously with only Elementary Trustees voting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Isaak introduced the next item on the agenda, Old Business.

a. FHS INTERIM PLAN OPTIONS

(Action)

Flatau summarized the three options for the Flathead High School Interim Principal position that have been brought before the Board, as presented. The Pro's and Con's for each option were listed. Flatau stated that "In regards to Option 2, Michele Paine would not apply for the position if she were appointed as the Interim candidate." Flatau then asked the Board if they had questions.

Trustee Kornick stated that he remembered the idea being raised of not allowing the Interim Principal to then apply for the position, but Kornick questioned the reasoning behind the idea.

Trustee Miller answered that "if you have an interim apply, some people will make the assumption that that person has the inside track and people will be less likely to apply thinking someone already has it in the bag." Adding that this is a trend Miller has experienced in the past.

Trustee Kornick stated that while he respects that thought, he completely disagrees with that thinking stating that "maybe they might be the perfect fit. I think it would hurt those that might be interested."

Trustee Miller added that he thinks it is a concern of some people, but that doesn't mean it is right or wrong.

Trustee Bailey stated that while she agrees with Millers concerns, "I want to see how the District and the Board can provide training opportunities for internal promotion. I think it is difficult when we have people in house who have applied several different times and then give up. While bringing in outside people is great, is there anything we can do as a Board to help make opportunities for leaders? We lose a lot of good people because they know they cannot advance."

Trustee Ruby stated that she was thankful for the options, but is a little concerned about Option 2 as well "because Pete

Fusaro was an internal candidate and I think we erode their confidence and might be telegraphing that we don't believe in them".

Miller stated that " If we have someone that is doing a good job and we have confidence in them, promote them, we don't have to open it up. If we have those types of situations where we feel really good with an internal candidate you are almost saying 'let's see if we can find someone better than you', we should be able to just move them forward."

Trustee Tepas asked "Can we just remove the stipulation that the Interim can't apply? if we are going to give Michele a chance, let's let her shine knowing that at the end of the school year she has a chance to stay on and not lose her to another district."

Trustee Ruby stated that she is a big fan of Option 1 (which spreads the Principal duties between the current three Assistant Principals) "That gives all three a chance".

Trustee Bailey added that "having three leaders scares me, but I was originally going to ask how we are going to deal with this financially? There are some big discussions that need to be made and I could go for Option 2 as is and maybe get more information and have some conversations and a little bit more education on that."

Trustee Albright stated that she is in favor of Option 2. "I think every team needs a leader. We have qualified people but the buck has to stop at someone's desk."

Trustee Bailey made a motion to approve Option 2, with further discussion about allowing Michele Paine to apply for the position at a later date.

Trustee Albright seconded the motion.

Motion carries with vote of 8-1. Trustee Ruby opposed.

Chair Isaak stated that Flathead has a great team of Administrator's and the Board is happy to see that tradition continue.

b. NEW ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION COST UPDATE

(Information)

Loren Cantrell from Langlas updated the Board on the Elementary Construction costs, stating that he wanted to compliment the team the District has assembled. "We have enjoyed the process so much and we really appreciated the Finance Committee input as well."

Cantrell went on to say that the the 1st role of his organization is to figure out how much the school costs, then jump in to phased bidding. Cantrell stated that there have been some budget challenges that are not insurmountable but have caused some modifications to be made to try to and save some dollars. Cantrell then walked the Board through the line item budget, as presented.

Langlas has presented a major advertising campaign across the state to pull in a wide bid pool. There were 605 contractors selected to receive direct invitations to Generate some bid response. 30 bids were received.

Cantrell covered the six scopes of work underneath the scope of Bid Package 2 stating that it is a difficult market right now with not a lot of companies bidding. The team has been using Value Engineering - Money saving options that don't significantly modify the program, but can save some money. These don't impact the feel or the functionality of the school. Langlas is trying to develop a budget based on past experience and working with local and regional sub contractors to get current market conditions. "We are constantly trying to gage this moving target where there is an upward movement. We think this is where we are going to land, but we cannot be sure."

Cantrell presented a summary form of a more detailed list of 50 items targeted for Value Engineering and discussed each line item with the Board. So Far, there have been two main bid packages sent out. The rest is an estimate, not a cost at this point. Until the rest of the building is bid out the actual cost will not be known. Langlas is waiting for winter to bid out some of the items that aren't needed right now to maybe recover some of the costs. Cantrell stated that with the bid climate the way it is right now, there is a shortage of sub contractors and Langlas is not seeing good results for bids and prices are going up, so they are trying to be conservative.

Trustee Albright thanked Cantrell for bringing this update to the Board and asked him and his team to keep at it, "We are very proud of that school and we want it to be what the voters asked for."

Superintendent Flatau reminded the Board to keep in mind that the District has only put out for bond collection 91 or 92% of the total bond capacity so there is still over 2 million dollars as bond capacity, "so we will see as this unfolds what the wishes of the Board are."

c. MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

(Information)

Finance Director Gwyn Anderson gave the Board the Monthly Budget Report, as presented. Anderson stated that the District has not yet received the County Treasures report for year end. Anderson reflected on a few highlights of the report:

- 97.9% property tax collection
- Retirement Fund is over budget. Anderson stated that the County Mil has to be very exact, and she struggles with it, those will be audit exceptions. This has to do with termination pay and Anderson stated that it is hard to estimate that cost each year.
- Student Built Home sold in June, the District is ahead about \$48,739.22. Interest has not been lost. People are really excited about this program and the next house is ready to start.
- Health Insurance plan: loss looks lower than expected.

d. RETREAT AGENDA AND DATE

(Discussion)

The Board Retreat that was originally scheduled for July 6th, was canceled and the Board discussed the best time to reschedule.

Superintendent Flatau noted the comments that were made tonight about topics for discussion.

- Levy planning
- elementary redistricting
- budget challenges
- policy and practice regarding administrators in coaching roles

It was decided to use the August 22nd and September 24th Board Work Sessions to facilitate the Board Retreat, beginning at 5pm each day to cover all the topics.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

(Action)

Chair Isaak asked the Board to consider a motion regarding the Consent Agenda as presented.

Trustee Ruby made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Trustee Bailey seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

There was some discussion as to the school handbooks and how well they line up with District Policy. It was decided to consider devoting a Work Session in the Spring to the handbooks.

- a. **FINANCIAL REPORTS/ BILLS AND PAYROLL** **(Consent Agenda)**
- b. **PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS** **(Consent Agenda)**
- c. **BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION LIST** **(Consent Agenda)**
- d. **FUNDRAISING REQUESTS** **(Consent Agenda)**
- e. **TRAVEL REQUEST** **(Consent Agenda)**
- f. **TUITION** **(Consent Agenda)**
- g. **APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS** **(Consent Agenda)**
- h. **CONTRACT RENEWALS** **(Consent Agenda)**

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS

(Information)

Chair Isaak introduced the next item on the agenda, Informational Items and Reports.

a. TRUSTEE REPORTS

(Information)

Trustee Tepas: None

Trustee Miller: I think the process we are going through in Finance of reviewing the budget, is very helpful and a good process

Trustee Morton Stout: None

Trustee Albright: I want to reiterate what Frank said., the Budget Committee came out of Finance and Frank, Diane, myself, and Jack set a date to look at it and it has been great. I encourage you to come to the next Budget Committee meeting.

Trustee Kornick: None

Trustee Endresen: None

Trustee Bailey: None

Trustee Ruby: None

Chair Isaak: I want to give a tip of the hat to the custodial staff, that hall is so shiny!

b. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

(Information)

i. Superintendent

(Information)

Flatau stated that he wanted to thank folks on the Budget committee. In regards to deferred maintenance, met with Jason Betterly, Morrison and Maierle, Callie Langhor and Mark Dennehy about the Glacier High renovation of the total parking lot. It would have been an extremely fast track before athletics, and based on bid climate the decision was to move the bulk of that bid to Jan/Feb. We feel that is a much smarter move and we will live with those issues in that parking lot for another year. In regards to Legends Field: tons of dirt have been removed, it has transformed and is still on schedule. That process goes pretty quick once they get the dirt out. The goal is to be done by the first game.

KMS held a fundraiser for Christi Briney and raised nearly \$4000, we hear her progress is slow but promising.

ii. Assistant Superintendent

(Information)

as presented.

10. ADJOURNMENT

(Action)

Chair Isaak called for a motion regarding the adjournment of the meeting.

Trustee Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Morton Stout seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Chair of the Board

Date

Clerk of the Board

Date

Secretary of the Board

Date

11. ACCOMMODATIONS