



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.

Special Board Meeting and Work Session

Meeting Minutes

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Library Media Center

205 Northwest Lane, Kalispell MT 59901

Tuesday, November 28, 2017 06:00 PM

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chair Isaak, Vice Chair Fallon, Bette Albright, Anna Marie Baiely, Frank Miller, Mark Kornick, Diane Morton Stout, Mary Tepas, Mary Ruby, Joe Brenneman

Members Absent: Jon Endresen

Officials Present: Superintendent Mark Flatau, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson, KEA President Lynn Rider, Finance Director Gwyn Andersen, HR Director Tracy Scott, FHS Principal Michele Paine, GHS Principal Callie Langohr

Others Present: Hilary Mathison from the Daily Interlake,

(2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

(3) 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.

Jen Rohweder, Edgerton parent, addressed the Board regarding the rezoning options.

"Option E came out a week ago and that seems to be the general direction the district is leaning. I live in Northridge and in each plan there has been a different separation for the Northridge neighborhood. Now neighbors are all going to different schools and we are having a hard time getting the neighborhood together, but we wanted to come to you and ask if you would be able to look at one more option. There is a little part Northridge off of 3 mile up to Northridge dr. is being rezoned down to Russell being rezoned to Hedges, across another highway and farther away, we would like to possibly consider keeping those two neighborhoods in the schools they are currently zoned for. Currently that one little area in Northridge is zoned for Edgerton and is serviced by one bus and part of that will continue to go to Edgerton so it is not a lot of students. It is less than one busload of students. It seems like with the numbers that you show with the redistribution, Edgerton has a pretty good cushion that they might be able to take that number of students by taking the students from the Russell area and putting them back into Russell that would open up room for Hedges to take more students. I don't think the numbers are huge, I don't have them, I have asked for the numbers but haven't received them. Our neighborhood we have finally been able to get together and are encouraging people to get online and comment or email as much as they can but I wanted to come here tonight to bring it to your attention and make a plea to maybe take a look at one more option."

Chair Isaak thanked Ms. Rohweder for her comments. Ms Rohweder added that she "knows it is a monster job and we want to be able to have our comments now that we can, because like I said, we were going all different directions. Thank you for all you do"

(4) NEW BUSINESS

None

(Action)

(5) OLD BUSINESS

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

(5.a) FHS PRINCIPAL POSITION OPENING

(Possible Action)

Flatau reminded the Board that at the July Business Meeting, there were three proposals the Board had requested on an Interim Principal position at Flathead High. The Board approved Option 2, as presented, and asked to have Trustee Kornick asked if it would be prudent to hold off on hiring a new Principal during Construction? Would that be an issue?

Flatau answered that construction certainly would be a challenge along with many other challenges for a new Principal. Construction will be under way, it will just be a matter of getting it finished up.

Trustee Brenneman stated that the Board agreed to option 2 and asked what else there is to talk about other than that?

Flatau answered that the Board had discussed whether the interim Principal should be allowed to apply, and there were questions regarding that and that is why it was placed on the agenda tonight.

Trustee Ruby asked if the Personnel Committee has gone through this issue at all? "Seems that would be a really good option. I know we did this in July and haven't discussed it since, I think it should go to Personnel first."

Trustee Ruby made a motion to send the subject of the FHS Principal position opening to the Personnel Committee for review and discussion.

Trustee Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

(5.b) LEVY PLANNING

(Discussion)

Flatau went over the Levy Planning options and timeline, as presented.

There was discussion on the budget shortfalls, how much can be asked for through a Levy, and future projections. The question was posed as to the reasoning that some Districts go out for a levy every year while Kalispell has not. Flatau stated that "indeed, some Districts choose to run a Levy every year to cover expenses but that, at least in the last few years, Kalispell has chosen to decide to tighten belts while still being able to offer great programs and not have to go out for a levy. SD5 has always operated under the maximum limit set by the State. This fall after 3 rounds of budget Cuts this year \$250,000 is all the District can expect in additional funding from the State compared to about \$950,000 two years ago. That is a big difference. We all know that we are spending over 1.5 million of our reserve fund and that much of that is going to support our Health Care costs. City and County Governments have a permissive levy they can use to offset increased health care costs, school districts are not allowed to do that. We are grateful we have reserve funds but we know that is not sustainable and is just a temporary fix. The New Elementary will require an additional \$750,000, approximately. We know that the majority of our teaching positions will be redistributed around the District but we will still need additional staff in the way of custodian, music teacher, Office Manager, etc. We are not increasing administratively which is a good thing, but again the operational costs of a new building are significant. Adding a new elementary produces zero new revenue from the state. High Schools have just been getting by, at best, because of the failure to pass a tech levy. These are just things we need to be aware of as we move forward. Our enrollment growth from '07 to now is a difference of 835 more students."

Flatau presented the operating budgets of the different AA Districts in the States as a comparison to Kalispell. From a taxpayer standpoint we are doing great things at 94% of our maximum elementary (others are at 98% and 100%) but we are coming to a period that that is just not sustainable and we are at 93% at High School compared to 98% and over 100%). We utilized the OPI website to determine that there is a \$2000 per student difference between what Kalispell spends per student and what Bozeman spends per student. That is impressive," It was agreed that no matter what decision is made about running a Levy, that even if a Levy passes, the District will be short on funds and is going to have to reduce spending as well. There was some discussion about pros and cons going out for an elementary levy and a high school Tech levy and run a smaller high school levy and the possibility of insuring earmarked funds for tech only. Because our enrollment growth has been so substantial since the last levy passed, that lends itself to strong leanings toward running a general fund levy at both the elementary and high school levels. A decision does not need to be made until February 13th, but the board can certainly take action sooner. The topic will come up again at the December Business Meeting.

(5.c) BUDGET MANAGEMENT AT BUILDING LEVEL

(Information)

Finance Director Andersen stated that "we set our Budget before we knew what government cuts would be affecting us."

We now know that we have lost some substantial funding and we are on track to overspend if we do not make some changes. The District will have to reduce spending to cover those shortfalls and no department will be allowed to spend over their budgets, we will be looking at anyplace we can get a vacancy savings, looking at equipment purchases. We will need to make sure the message is out to the schools that we will be looking very closely at every position, as employees are the biggest expenditure." Andersen added that there will be some positions that will not be able to be filled, due to budget restrictions, in the future. The District will not be spending anymore out of the Interlocal agreement, other than one time expenditures only, that is a false sense of security. It was discussed that the message actually needs be out that departments need to be thinking about spending less than their budgets, not just not going over budget. There was not a specific percentage of funding that was cut but rather chunks of spending that were looked at, for example Block Grant revenues cut in half in general fund, and removed all together from the transportation fund. There was a question from Langohr in regards to reduction in block grant money for the high schools. Andersen reiterated that there would have to be some really significant cuts to block grants to make any real difference and that the closer look will be taken at vacancy positions and not being able to fill those because salary and benefits are the highest expenditure and therefore offer the biggest savings. Flatau stated that there has not been any discussion to reduce the block grant funding to the schools at this time.

Flatau summed up by stating that he hopes for a bigger picture at the next business meeting.

(6) CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

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

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

Trustee Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

- (6.a) FINANCIAL REPORTS/BILLS AND PAYROLL (Consent Agenda)**
- (6.b) PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS (Consent Agenda)**
- (6.c) BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION LIST (Consent Agenda)**
- (6.d) TUITION (Consent Agenda)**
- (6.e) NEW CLUB APPROVAL (Consent Agenda)**

(7) ADJOURNMENT

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

Trustee Tepas made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Chair of the Board	Date
Clerk of the Board	Date
Secretary of the Board	Date

(8) ACCOMMODATIONS (Information)