



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, March 20, 2018 06:00 PM

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chair Lance Isaak, Mark Kornick, Jack Fallon, Jon Endresen, Mary Ruby, Frank Miller, Diane Morton Stout, Joe Brenneman, Mary Tepas

Members Absent: Anna Marie Bailey, Bette Albright

Officials Present: Superintendent Mark Flatau, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson, Finance Director Gwyn Andersen, HR Director Tracy Scott, GHS Principal Callie Langohr, FHS Principal Michele Paine, FHS Assistant Principals Mike Lincoln, Bryce Wilson and Mark Fisher, Elrod Principal Glenda Armstrong, Edgerton Principal Merisa Murray, KMS Principal Tryg Johnson

Others Present: Owners Representative Erick Enz, FHS Teacher Kelli Higgins, Elrod Instructional Coach Kim Wakefield, Mike Merchant, Ashley Fisher, Eliza Sorte-Thomas, Dewey Swank, Hillary Mathison, Kay Lynda Walker, Ming Lovejoy, Grant Kerley, Tami Ward

(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.

Ming Lovejoy stated that she is asking the board to access the documentary film "Generation Zapped", which is in pre-release form. The film addresses what school districts are doing to mitigate effects, issues about cell towers. It is non sensationalists, non partisan. Ms. Lovejoy stated that she is looking to host a public community free screening of this at FHS. Lovejoy also thanked Mark Dennehy and Callie Langohr, who will be screening this over spring break.

Kay Walker stated that she wanted to thank the board for all they do and added that she lives a block and a half from FHS and that she is a grandma. Walker has seen and read about how emissions have just exponentially increased, "we can't get over the internet, but there are some things we can put in place, some kids are negatively effected by wi-fi" and asked the board, " while doing this remodel why not make it safe for kids?".

(4) NEW BUSINESS

(Action)

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

(4.a) IB UPDATE

(Information)

FHS Principal Michele Paine and Kelli Higgins, Flathead High School Teacher and International Baccalaureate

Coordinator gave the Board an update on the IB program. Higgins stated that Flathead has been accepted into the IB Excellence and Equity Program for 2018-19. Flathead is the only school in Montana to be accepted. Paine added that "We are very proud of our IB school, we are doing a lot of things right.". Higgins went on to hit some major highlights of the IB Programme.

- 63% of Juniors and Seniors take at least one IB class
- 88% pass rate at FHS...International pass rate is 79% (we do better than most of the other IB schools around the world)
- How can we grow? what can we do? Second year of IB Language and Literature class, designed to pull in some of those standard level kids who don't see themselves as IB students
- Facts: 1% of public schools in the US have advanced programs that match the diversity of their school population.
- Over 90% of low income students aspire to attend college, but often do not enjoy the same opportunities for a challenging K-12 education that prepares them with the skills and abilities required for success in University.
- 11% of lowest income quartile achieve a bachelor's degree by age 24, 79% of the higher quartile
- The single most important factor in determining college success is the academic challenge of the courses students take in high school:
- Diploma Program graduates matched apples to apples (equally capable, equal poverty level, etc.) with non DP students and compared (Chicago), as presented
- DP students are coming out more ready for college and persisting longer than their comparative peers.
- Didn't internalize their socio economic hardships and were able to rise above them
- looking at FHS situation: we have students in poverty and we believe the more we can incorporate those students and offer the scaffolding needed, we can change their life.
- We know they can be successful, we have to find out how to reach them
- Why can they be successful? It turns out IB pedagogy is good for all students. The IB requirements are just "best practice".
- E2 Professional Development:
- We look forward to all that we will learn and serving our students through greater equity.
- A well supported journey and we are excited. a necessary journey if you truly want to expand the IB program

(4.b) FHS PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION

(Action)

Superintendent Flatau reminded the Board that the FHS Principal position had a large interview team, and that the recommendation before the Board is to approve Michele Paine as the Principal of Flathead High School. Trustee Ruby asked Flatau if he would refresh the Board on the make up of the interview committee. The committee was comprised of 9 staff members, 2 trustees, 1 parent, 1 student and both Superintendent Flatau and Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson.

Trustee Kornick made a motion to approve Michele Paine as Principal at Flathead High School. Trustee Tepas seconded the motion.

Trustee Brenneman stated that it pains him greatly, to go against the Superintendent's recommendation because he admires him, but, "I feel there are significant reasons to not approve this contract, I am troubled by a couple things. Was the interview committee was going to give the same objective review of other candidates as it did the outside candidates? I believe there were too many people from FHS on the committee and I think it would be intimidating to go against the current principal. But mostly, we were told the interim would not apply for this position and we made the decision based upon that information." Brenneman went on to say "it is a matter of integrity, I don't think it is the right candidate for the job, you vote with integrity on what is ethically correct and not because it would be the easiest thing to do."

Chair Isaak stated "I am in support, I do think things change, Michele has proven herself over this last year and the hiring committee came to full support of Marks' recommendation."

Flatau added that the 17 member interview team signs confidentiality agreements in regards to details "but I will tell you the deliberations were forthright and put everything on the table. It was an open, honest conversation across the board when it came to evaluating all candidates, in that regard."

Motion carries 8-1 with Trustee Brenneman voting NO.

(4.c) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

(Action)

(4.c.1) CONTRACTS - ELEMENTARY

(Action)

Rankin has two outstanding bid packages: furniture and landscaping

Joe Clark with Langlas walked the Board through the 5 landscaping bid packages, as presented.

Erick Enz added that a few things were identified at finance, a few areas that were duplicate costs, "so we will see some credit, possibly \$15,000 in credit".

Trustee Miller made a motion to accept the Rankin Landscaping SE BP34 recommendation, as presented.

Trustee Morton Stout seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously with elementary trustees only.

Tom Heineke from Morrison and Maierle stated that 5 suppliers bid on the Rankin furniture contract. "The recommendation as designers is to go with the low bid. but there could be reasons to award everything to J2...when you split things up you distribute the responsibility when it comes to issues with warranty or defective equipment. The financial difference between the 2 choices will cost an extra \$10,922.76.

Rankin Principal Merisa Murray added that she had toured Bigfork school, who were in the same situation, and when you walk through the school "I could tell the difference in the quality in the furniture, warranty, customer service. The Bigfork Principal said if he had to do it over again he would do all J2 instead of splitting it up. I recommend going with J2, they are local, they back up their service...etc." Finance Committee recommendation was that going completely with J2 was the better choice.

Trustee Ruby made a motion to accept the J2 office proposals for schedule 1,2,3 and 4, as presented.

Trustee Morton Stout seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously with elementary only.

Shane Jacobs with CTA updated the Board on the 5 elementary bid results:

There was one bidder: Swank enterprises. The recommendation is to award the contract to Swank as bid on 3/8/18.

Jacobs talked about some reductions to gymnasiums CTA were asked to make after the last Finance Committee Meeting and the savings in some value engineering and stated that CTA needs a little more time to shore up these numbers. "We have a healthy contingency available at Rankin so it is safe to say that this summer the base bid is going to get done and we will have a much better picture of availability to move forward."

Trustee Ruby made a motion to approve the awarding of the Five Elementary bid of \$11,439,795.00 to Swank Construction.

Trustee Morton Stout seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously with elementary trustees only.

CTA has 5 jobs with KPS, but only one contract. Shane Jacobs then went over the invoice, as presented, for contract modification. Jacobs stated that CTA is trying to cover our expenses, but trying to do well by the school district. CTA is going to make an In kind fee reduction of \$107,572.

Trustee Miller stated that he has concerns that the District is using monies that are "going to potentially put us down to 0 and if something bad happens we are putting ourself in a very bad place, and some of those things listed as alternates may never get done, and we will have to go back to the voters some day."

Trustee Ruby made a motion to approve the CTA contract, as presented.

Trustee Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously with elementary trustees only.

(4.c.2) CONTRACTS - HIGH SCHOOL

(Action)

Tom Heineke from Morrison and Maierle presented the FHS bid results stating that he feels really good about Swank doing that work, they have started the demo this week.

Finance Director Andersen stated that the "insurance company called just before the board meeting and asked that this contract be approved pending their approval...they have not reviewed the contract and they will do it

as quickly as possible but they would like the motion to state 'pending legal review of the contracts'.
Trustee Fallon asked if the insurance company reviewed other contracts before they approved them? Andersen stated that yes, they have.

Trustee Brenneman made a motion to approve the Flathead High Contract for Swank, as presented, pending the approval of the insurance company.
Trustee Miller seconded the motion.
Motion carries unanimously.

(5) OLD BUSINESS

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

(5.a) BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (Information)

Board recommended budget cuts for elementary and high school for both this year and next year. Flatau stated that "we are going to continue to move forward with those budget cuts and topics which came out of our discussion and will keep you abreast."

(5.b) LEVY PLANNING UPDATE (Information)

Flatau went over the Levy mailer, as presented.
Levy is tied directly to the day to day learning of students.
Bonds are for buildings and levies are for learning, bonds are brick and mortar, but levy dollars support our schools on a day to day basis.
"In Levy language, we are required to use the \$100,000 and \$200,000 but we also decided to use the \$300,000 too.
This Thursday, there will be a kick off at most school sites. This will be an opportunity prior to Spring Break to get the signs out. They have been modified from a "Vote Bond" to "Vote Levy".

(5.c) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Discussion)

Flatau went over some Do's and Don'ts for moving forward with the Levy election. A change in the law in 2005 that boils down to using a school facility to convene a quorum of the board. "We now have the authority to utilize district staff to present why the district is making a case to go before the voters. We may not ask for a 'Yes' vote,.. we can only give factual objective information. Board members can say "vote yes". As long as board members are not using district staff time or resources, they can, and have a responsibility to, advocate for passage of measures they vote to put on the ballot.

(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 Tepas 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) TRAVEL REQUESTS (Consent Agenda)

(6.f) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS (Consent Agenda)

(7) ACCOMMODATIONS (Information)

(8) ADJOURNMENT

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

Trustee Kornick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Trustee Tepas seconded the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Chair of the Board

Date

Clerk of the Board

Date

Secretary of the Board

Date