

## **COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT #6**

The **REGULAR** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbus School District #6 was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in the middle school commons area. Chair Morse called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was established, and the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those participating were Trustee Joe Morse, Trustee Ryan Meier, Trustee Stephanie Wright and Trustee Jay Baum. Superintendent Jeff Bermes, Elementary Principal Tom Kurtz, Middle School Principal Joseph Morse, High School Principal Jim Browning, CEA Union President Vickie Gibson, Heather Ostwald, Zoe Hamett, Brylee Lowell, Paden Nation, Lisa Westervelt, Becky MacEwen Wyatt Meier, Tysen Young, Mason Meier, Cash Kramer, Rachel Geehan, Kaliber Emmett, Amber Emmett, Rayne Emmett, Alexis Zajane, Jacob Gerlach, Gethen Zajane, Amanda Zajane, Cheyenne Brown, Paige Lethert, Madison Lind, Jayson Emmett, Jeannie Eaton, Bailey Eaton, Kyra Powell, Jetta Briggs, Michelle Cook, Tanner Cook, Cooper Cook, Terry Cook, Natalie Gairrett, Krystel Groner, Tyler Groner, McKenney Baluka, Kiley Frank, Brady Baluka, Autumn Baluka, Ryan Berlank, Kim and Ed Raihl, Harley Kabe, Tanya Elis-Baum, Ethan Short, Skip Meier, Khali Severs, Ashley Thorson, Trusin Juhnne, Robbie V., Jessica Baird, Elexis Baird, Liam Baird, Pieper Baird, Rocky Rothwell, Jordyn Wolf, Sydnee Rothwell, LaCai Frickel, Austin Rager, Isabella Gurie, Asher C, Dane Cross, Preston Neilson, Jacob Reynolds, Gracie Peterson, Beth Ann Steffan, Casey Olsen, Kadence Ritchre, Makalya Gaustad

- A.** Approve Board Meeting Minutes
- B.** Approve Warrants, Extracurricular Balances, and Expenditures

Trustee Baum made a motion to accept the agenda as is. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously

Trustee Wright made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warrant approved 26065-26117

## **PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

High School Student Council announced prom will be Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The theme is “A Night in Vegas.”

Middle School Student Council announced they will be taking donations for the American Heart Association.

Head Wrestling Coach, Rocky Rothwell brought to the board a proposal for a wrestling facility. The proposal consisted of the following:

- A progress report on a previous proposal that suggested the Bus Depot be converted into a shared facility for wrestlers and baseball/softball players
- What objectives need to be met to see this proposal reach fruition?

- What can our wrestling community do to help see this project through?
- We are asking for a home.

A potential home could be in the empty lot the school owns by the hospitals. The building would be around 4 feet by 60 feet. Funding will be the most difficult part of this project. Research is being done to move forward with this proposal.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Final Reading of the District Strategic Plan**

The District Strategic Plan has been modified to incorporate items regarding academic goals and out-of-district enrollment. The multi-tier academic goal has been removed as it doesn't pertain to the main objective of the plan at this time. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the final reading of the 2024 District Strategic Plan. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **B. Final Reading of the District Family Engagement Plan**

There has been no corrections of this plan since the first reading. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the final reading of the 2024 Family Engagement Plan. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion/Approval of Proposed Changes in Mills for Tuition, Adult Ed, Building Reserve, Transportation, and Bus Depreciation Levies for School Fiscal Year 2024-25 per SB 307.**

It has been discussed that the district will need to increase some of current permissive mills for our transportation funds and tuition funds due to increased bus transportation costs associated to increasing fuel costs and repair costs, we will also need to increase our tuition funds due to the need to hire and continue one-on-one para service for a number of students in the elementary and at the high school. The tuition fund for high school also had to be increased due to a couple of students in an alternate school placement. Trustee Meier made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies. Trustee Wright seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **B. Home School Parental Request to Participate in Graduation Ceremony**

The board has discussed they do not plan on changing their policy in regards to a student being enrolled the last semester at CHS to graduate and partake in the graduation ceremony. No motion was taken.

### **C. Approval of the 2024-25 Academic Calendar**

Per the negotiated CEA CBA, a calendar has been chosen and voted upon for the board approval. This calendar is similar to the current years academic calendar. There will be a total of 173.5 instructional days with 7 PIR days built in throughout the year. The start date will be Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and the last day of school would be Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Trustee Meier made a motion to approve the 2024-25 academic day calendar as presented. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **D. Preliminary District Budgets for 2024-25**

This year's preliminary budget shows an increase in the high school and elementary budgets. The high school increase is due to increases in new state funding and higher student enrollment. The elementary increase is due to an increase in student enrollments and an increase in the new state funding formula related to inflationary increases. There will be no mill levy. No motion.

### **E. Approval of the 2022-2023 Audit**

Strom and Associates have completed the 22-23 district financial audit. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the 22-23 District Financial Audit from Strom and Associates. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **F. Purchase of Middle School Basketball Uniforms**

It has been requested to order the middle school basketball program uniforms. These uniforms are reversible reducing the number of uniforms we need to purchase and store. The athletic program will purchase the tops and the students will supply their own shorts. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve the purchase of the set of uniform tops for the boys and girls middle school basketball programs at a total cost of \$4,200. Trustee Baum seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **G. Approval of New District Position as Indian Education Coordinator**

With the new accreditation standards and requirements of every school district regarding Indian Education, the requirements warrant the need to have a specialist on staff to make sure all professional development, teacher trainings, curriculum reviews and accreditation requirements are met. This would be a stipend position. Upon discussion appointment could not be made until all staff are given the same opportunity to apply for the same position. A recommendation to determine a staff member will be forth coming. Trustee Baum made a motion to approve the new District Indian Education Director position. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

## **H. Teacher Leave Request**

Math Teacher, Ms. Ryan has requested that she be allowed to have March 25<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup> off to see her fiancé before his deployment overseas. Trustee Wright made a motion to approve Ms. Ryan's extended leave. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

## **I. Request to Open Teacher Negotiations**

Trustee Baum and Trustee Meier have volunteered to sit in on teacher negotiations. Trustee Baum made a motion to open teacher negotiations. Trustee Meier seconded. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

## **Administrative Reports**

### **A. Elementary Report:**

- Enrollment 322
- Basketball programs start next week for grade 3-5.
- March 27 is Kindergarten Roundup
- March 27<sup>th</sup> is ski day for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. March 28<sup>th</sup> is the fifth graders.
- March 29 and April st is no school for spring break.
- April 1 through the 19<sup>th</sup> is MAPS testing window.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> is the Kindergarten field trip to Alberta Bair Theater.

### **B. Middle School Report**

- Enrollment 178
- Academic Olympic team competed in jeopardy style competition in Bozeman.
- Math Counts competition was February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- County Spelling Bee winner is Lina Jiang.
- Middle School Honor Society induction ceremony was February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Career Fair is April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders took the NAEP Testing.
- MAST testing starts April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Middle school track starts March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. High School Report**

- Enrollment 246
- FFA finished district competitions.
- Ms. Martinez's FFCLA members have their state competition in Bozeman this week.
- Spring sports are underway.
- BPA competed at state the last three days.
- The ACT and Pre-ACT will be administered on March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Prom will be held on Saturday evening in the HS commons.
- Langlass Construction will be coming to speak to the students about careers. Next week will be going to Montana Silversmiths.

**D. Superintendent Report**

- Robotics presentation will be coming in April.
- Walk through today for remodel of garage for larger apartment.
- Entry ways are under construction.
- Baseball fields are being maintained for spring ball.
- Working on carpet bid to finish elementary building.
- Working on graphics for new bus.
- Gym roof bids are coming in.
- After gym roof is complete will start looking at parking lot maintenance.
- High School Sped, ELA in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Tech position are open positions.
- Teachers negotiations first and then classified staff. Contracts will follow after completion of negotiations.
- Health Insurance Rate increase coming.
- Jay and Ryan will volunteer to sit in on High School SPED interview on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Possible custodial position for a high school student graduation this year.
- Open tech position could possibly be filled by mid-April.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Transportation:

Personnel Committee:

Buildings:

Finance: They met to approve and sign warrants.

Technology:

Policy:

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Baum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm, Trustee Wright seconded it. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

  
Chairman

Attest:  
