

Canyon Creek School District #4
Yellowstone County, Billings, MT
6:30 p.m. – Regular Meeting via Zoom

Call To Order

November 12, 2020

Chair Amy Sironi called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held via Zoom, to order at 6:30 p.m. by leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following trustees and officers were present: Amy Sironi, Chair, Amy Gibbons, Vice-Chair, John Soucy, Trustee, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Katie Kading, Lynette Brug, Delaney Johnson, Ashley Vogl

Public Comment

None submitted.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Lipp noted an addition to the agenda, New Business action item – MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate Ballot.

Amy G. moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate Ballot as presented. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent's Report–
 1. COVID/School Health Report – Superintendent Lipp noted this will be covered during the New Business agenda item.
 2. Athletics – Boys basketball season is kept intact. Mrs. Roberts rescheduled the games that were impacted by the Covid related school closure.
 3. Concerts – Mrs. Stormer recorded the school concert and has posted the concert for online listening.
 4. Report Cards – They will be distributed the week after next. During online learning, assessments are being completed and the end of the Trimester is November 19th. Superintendent Lipp shared that there has been recognition that the cards are needing revised. There are upcoming meetings to discuss aligning the standards and the report cards.
 5. Conferences – There is consideration for student-led conferences through a Zoom or Google Meets platform for the upper grades. The lower grades will have virtual parent/teacher conferences, led by the teachers.
 6. Thanksgiving Dinner – The dinner will be held after we return to school on November

30th.

7. First View App – First Student is struggling to get the bus routes uploaded. They are struggling with the app platform. Currently there is a limitation only allowing parents to follow one bus, not all three.
8. Transportation – All three buses are being utilized to deliver free meals to in-district students. The routes are spread out in a wide area. The meal delivery is completed within an hour.

Last Thursday, a bus heading down 56th was hit by 2 objects. It has not been clarified what exactly happened. This was the K-2 bus.

- Dean of Student's Report –
 1. Conduct Reports – 23 reports since last meeting. All aggression or insubordination.
 2. Cole's Pantry – The program is up and running again. Currently we are serving seven families. Tuesday, November 24th a Thanksgiving meal will be sent out to all families. Most of the supplies for these meals have been donated.
 3. Special Olympics Polar Plunge – December 4th is the date the Polar Plunge will be held at the school. The plan is to video stream the event so others can view the event. The athletes will also still be able to participate in Special Olympics bowling. Mrs. Morales attended a training for this activity. The competition will be held within our local team members. Student temperatures are required for each practice and competition. The program is being very proactive with keeping the athletes safe and continuing this program.
 4. SPED – Mrs. Morales gave an update on the status of the SPED department, stating that it is very busy.

Old Business

- A. SPED Certified Teacher position recruitment status update was given. No current certified applicants. Due to the open position, there is potential for accreditation issues and funding issues without having the position filled. Superintendent Lipp shared that most likely we will not get this position filled. He will be reposting the position to update the posting feed to move the opening to the top of the list. He inquired if the board would like to pursue getting it filled or if we should hold off and pursue a strong recruitment for next school year. John shared he feels we are handling this in the correct manner. He doesn't feel we should fill the position on desperation versus inspiration. Superintendent Lipp shared that he is working on completing the TEAMS report with OPI. They are advising him on how to complete our accreditation with utilizing Mrs. Morales in the SPED position. OPI has made the decision to use accreditation from last year and is waiving this year due to Covid. This helps the District and the current SPED vacancy that we have. Superintendent Lipp commended the SPED department on their efforts to date.
- B. Open Board Trustee Position recruitment status update was given. No new known individuals of interest. The Board asked the audience to spread the word. Amanda shared that Mrs. Wilson may be a possibility and/or her parents may be someone to pursue. Superintendent Lipp mentioned that he may seek previous trustees out to see if there

is any interest.

New Business

- A. MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate Ballot – Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall completed the vote on behalf of the Board of Trustees per the Trustees action taken.

- *Amy G. made a motion to approve MTSBA FY22 Dues Revenue Estimate Ballot as presented. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion failed unanimously.*

- B. Board of Trustees – Goal Evaluation Summary - The compiled summary of Board Trustees Self-Assessments were discussed in detail. Each individual Trustee received a copy of their own assessment back, to compare their scoring versus the average of the Trustees assessments as a whole.

Amy S. shared that community relationships definitely needs to be set as a goal. Amy G. asked if more time to review the summary would be possible. She would like to process the summary. She seeks to improve the community relations, especially with the out-of-district parents. John noted that the assessment is split into five subcategories and shared that perhaps one area should be the focus of the board. Amanda would look at the lowest score on the summary and focus on that area, setting that area as a designated goal area. She feels the board needs education on board structure, meeting processes and public comment.

Superintendent Lipp suggested that the board take time to review the summary in more detail and come back with two goals each to discuss at December's board meeting. From that discussion perhaps the board can set one or two goals.

- B. Superintendent Lipp - FY21 Goals – Discussion was held. He shared seven specific goal areas: students, academics, technology, community engagement, staff, facilities, and superintendent – professional goals.
- C. Coronavirus Relief Funds – Expenditures to Date – Ms. Stovall presented the current expenditure report for the Coronavirus Relief Funds. Discussion was held and plans forward for expenditures were shared.
- D. Covid / School Health Report – Discussion was held. When the school closure occurred, there were seven staff members impacted in some fashion and not working. The staffing shortage was the main factor in the school closure.

There was covid tracing completed that points towards asymptomatic students within the school. Those staff members who were in contact with those students are the ones who were impacted. Another factor to the closure is that parents are not disclosing that they have household members impacted and still sending their students to school. Our staff as a whole are struggling to keep up with the transition to online learning, as well as, Covid impacts to increased stress and mental health struggles. Superintendent Lipp wants the board to consider if reopening is in the best interest of the district. He wants the board to be aware of the mental health struggles of the staff working under the constant burden of Covid.

A positive note to share, is the opportunity to access a supply of fast-acting tests from the state, to utilize on staff members who are showing symptoms. The tests have been requested and we are anticipating delivery of them shortly. This allows the district to test on-site and get results almost instantly. The results are required to be recorded with the state. We will be utilizing the Riverstone Health nurse in addition to Administration to complete the testing. The accuracy of

the tests is noted to be between 75 and 80 percent. Pending the amount of tests received, will determine the usage by the district.

The board noted that the district only has limited control on the situation. When in the controlled school environment we feel we have done our best to protect students and staff. However, outside the district, there is no control.

Delaney Johnson shared that in-class learning is the best case scenario. She noted that the switch back and forth from learning platforms is extremely hard. Worst case scenario, if online learning is the only option that is what will be done. The board members who have students working online have shared that the efforts of the staff is amazing and the online learning their children are receiving is of high quality.

John noted that when decisions are made, he feels like he is being left out of major decisions. He is frustrated with the lack of communication. He is asking for clarification on whose decision it is to close the school and switch to on-line learning. It was reiterated that communication needs to improve.

- E. Establishment of Committees – Discussion was held. The one committee that is needing established in a timely manner is the personnel negotiations committee, as there has been discussions with the CCEA President requesting to begin discussions. It was decided to wait until later in the year to appoint members to the Finance and Building / Grounds Committees.
 - 1. Finance Committee –
 - 2. Personnel Negotiations - Chair, Amy Sironi appointed John Soucy and Amanda Agyeman-Budu as Personnel Negotiations Committee members.
 - 3. Building / Grounds Committee -

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – December 10th

- A. Review of MOA with CCEA, agreed and signed 08/17/2020
- B. Directions given to Trustees by the Chair for completion of the Superintendent’s evaluation
- C. Covid / School Health Report

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Amy G. moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk