

Canyon Creek School District #4
Yellowstone County, Billings, MT
6:30 p.m. – Library

Call To Order

January 20, 2022

Chair, Amy Sironi called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees 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, Kelly Hickey, Trustee, and Carl Siroky, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Kelsey Menahan, Kindra Speidel, Carey See, Wade See, Linda Morgan, Earl Ross, John Machado, Delaney Johnson, Wendy Bekkedahl, Becca Sedlacek, Melissa Kamp, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Laurie Stricker, Erika Wilson, Jessica Hart, Candi Allen, Marilyn Skredergard, Kasey Felder, Russ Reed, Kevin Wood, Teresa Wood, Joey Ogburn, Rachel Swoboda, Christina Stormer, Jenny Koffler

Adjustments to the Agenda

Additional Correspondence was added as follows:

Letter to the BOT – Jennifer Nicholls

Letter to the BOT – Jeanne Raney

Letter to the BOT – Kirsten Weatherford, Paraprofessional

Letter to the BOT – Becca Sedlacek, PTO President

Public Comment

Carey See – Support of Canyon Creek – She noted that the community has not come together, rather they have split over multiple issues. She is speaking in support of Superintendent Lipp and his efforts.

John Machado – Mask Mandate - Noted his dedication to the school since 1985. He is voicing support in opt-out option of mask mandates. He is frustrated that the school did not survey the parents for their thoughts and the option of having a say in masking.

Wendy Bekkedahl – Communication – issues there of – She noted her concern over the lack of prorated payment to Quincy Stormer for his time coaching. She shared that she felt he was discriminated against in comparison with other coaching staff.

Substitute teaching – She shared concern that an application remitted January 11th had not been acknowledged. Lack of communication and professionalism from Superintendent Lipp was noted. The district is in a substitute crisis and yet there has been no response to the application remitted from a highly qualified applicant.

Becca Sedlacek – Request of formal survey from staff and parents – She noted her efforts and dedication to the PTO. She is concerned about the years and years of lying. She is a strong advocate of surveying the staff and talking in detail with them. She strongly asks that the trustees table considering a renewal

of Superintendent Lipp's contract until they have a pulse on staff and parent feedback. She noted that what Superintendent Lipp tells the trustees when a staff member resigns, is not the truth. The trustees need to be talking to staff to get a true understanding and pulse of what is happening and why staff members continue to leave.

Consent Agenda

Amy Gibbons moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

1. Letter of Resignation – Mike Brakke, Custodian
Amy Gibbons moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for Mike Brakke as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
1. Letter of Resignation – James Wiesner, Trustee - The board recognized James for his efforts. Chair, Amy Sironi noted with the resignation, there is an additional open Board of Trustee's seat.
Carl Siroky moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for James Wiesner as presented. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Letter of Resignation – Seara Stovall, Business Manager – The board recognized Ms. Stovall for her efforts and thanked her for the education that she shared with the trustees. *Carl Siroky moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for Seara Stovall as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
3. Letter to the Trustees – Canyon Creek Team Member (*Information*)
4. Letter to the Trustees – Concerned Member of the Canyon Creek Team (*Information*)
5. Letter to the Trustees – Anonymous Teacher at Canyon Creek School (*Information*)
6. Letter to the BOT – Jennifer Nicholls (*Information*)
7. Letter to the BOT – Jeanne Raney (*Information*)
8. Letter to the BOT – Kirsten Weatherford, Paraprofessional (*Information*)
9. Letter to the BOT – Becca Sedlacek, PTO President (*Information*)
10. RiverStone Health School Nurse Report - (*Information*) Superintendent Lipp shared Nurse Rock's monthly report.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent's Report –
 1. Athletics – Superintendent Lipp shared that Boys Basketball is wrapping up with their season-end tournament. Girls Volleyball will begin next week, January 27th, with enough participants for four teams.
Missoula Children's Theater will be starting next week. Johnny Appleseed is the play being presented.
 2. Positions in the District – Superintendent Lipp shared that there is one custodial position open, a CBEE Cooperative Paraprofessional and a Business Manager position.
 3. PowerSchool Training in February – Superintendent Lipp shared that he approved Mrs.

Roberts and Mrs. Morales attendance at PowerSchool training in Florida. The training is scheduled for February 7th – 11th.

4. I Love to Read Month – Superintendent Lipp shared that the I Love to Read Month program is back on track and the students will be participating in the month of February. This will work in conjunction with the PTO and kitchen staff.
 5. Evaluations – Superintendent Lipp shared that he has been working to complete the first round evaluations prior to the January 25th deadline. The evaluations are completed.
 6. Science – Superintendent Lipp shared that he has started the vetting process for a new Science curriculum. He has sent samples to the teachers for their input. He is hoping to have a recommendation for the board by the end of February.
 7. ARP – FCC Emergency Connectivity Program Fund – Superintendent Lipp noted the computers have been ordered.
- Dean of Student's Report –
 1. Discipline – Mrs. Morales gave a summary of the disciplinary issues that have been addressed since the last board meeting. November - December numbers were busy with disciplinary needs. Defiance and disrespect continue to be the highest categories of referrals. Discipline issues are regularly occurring in the classroom, cafeteria and bus. Junior High has the most write-ups.
 2. NWEA Testing – Mrs. Morales shared that we have started NWEA testing, with the 5th-8th grade this week and K-4th grade next week. She noted the students have been great about the testing requirements.
 3. Letter to the BOT – She noted she is very upset about what has been occurring within our school community. She noted there has been a lack of kindness and keeping students as a priority. She is hopeful for appreciation and support from the school community.

New Business

- A. Election – Ms. Stovall shared that there are two trustee positions for a three-year term that will be up for election on May 3rd. Interested Trustee candidates must file for election. A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy must be filed with the district clerk. No candidate may appear on the ballot unless the candidate meets the deadline for filing of December 9, 2021 – March 24, 2022. All candidates must be registered to vote at the time the Oath is filed. Discussion was held and required documentation was provided.
- B. Mid-year Budget Summary – Ms. Stovall presented a mid-year summary of the budget status. In preparation for the election season, there was discussion on historical permissive levy amounts, mills per fund impacts and FY23 projected enrollment.
- C. Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election – Ms. Stovall shared that beyond filing, the first major required item for 2022 is the Tuesday, February 22nd deadline for trustees to call an election. Discussion was held.

Amy Gibbons made a motion to accept the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election as

presented. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety - Review – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp reviewed the Yellowstone County Schools Weekly Report, week reviewed 1-9-22 – 1-15-22. There are four indicators that were reviewed in detail; 1 – Capacity of Healthcare and Public Health, 2 – Weekly Case Mix: Increase in new cases in children under 19, 3 – Weekly average daily case count per 100,000, 4 – Weekly Yellowstone County test positivity rate.

Superintendent Lipp shared that there is significant increases in both the school and the community. Parents have been great about keeping the District informed on each situation. With diligent masking, sanitizing and preventative measures, the District has avoided any major outbreaks.

At the County level, it looks as if we are still seeing a large number of Covid cases. The data from the unified health command is still in the red, so it is Superintendent Lipp's recommendation to continue with the school safety, masking and precautions for the next month. No change will be made due to the data from the unified health command still being in the red.

Carl shared that he is very disappointed with the data provided by Mr. Felton's office. He feels at this time we should continue with the mask mandate and reassess next month.

Covid positive cases of students reported from parents is currently at 10 and 2 staff members.

Mr. Machado asked why if the district has a mask mandate, why are we still allowing athletics, when the masking is not being adhered to during those activities.

Kelly Hickey agreed that we need to ride this current high wave out and reassess next month.

Amy Gibbons shared that she feels we should consider revising the mask requirement for after-school activities. Carl and Kelly supported revising the after school hours activities to not include mask mandates.

Mrs. Bekkadahl shared that the liability is stronger if a written policy requires masking and the policy is not adhered to at all times, including after-school activities.

Carl Siroky made a motion to maintain Policy 1905 as currently in effect. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a split vote. Carl Siroky, Kelly Hickey and Amy Sironi voted in favor and Amy Gibbons voted against.

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – February 10th

- A. Covid / School Health Update
- B. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety – Review
- C. FY21 Audit Summary
- D. Enrollment/ANB Update
- E. FY23 School Calendar

*Superintendent Lipp strongly noted that he felt all the picking at the board and himself was harassment and he is tired of it. He noted there is a policy to follow if there is a request to add an item to the board meeting agenda. People need to start following policy.

New Business Continued

- A. Superintendent Evaluation – close of Open Session for Executive Session at 8:09 p.m.
Carl Siroky moved to close open session and move to executive session. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Superintendent Lipp requested to have a private Executive Session. Amy Gibbons took executive session minutes per Board Chair and Superintendent guidance. They also released Ms. Stovall from staying to take minutes when Open Session resumed following Executive Session.

- B. Superintendent Contract Renewal – Open Session reopened at 10:50 p.m.
Carl Siroky moved to renew the Superintendent’s contract, not to exceed 2024. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, February 10th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Carl Siroky moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 p.m. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk