

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

Call To Order

June 10, 2021

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, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Trustee, Kelly Hickey, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present: Earl Ross, Facilities Manager

Public Comment

None submitted.

Consent Agenda

Amanda Agyeman-Budu moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

1. RiverStone Health School Nurse Report – The trustees reviewed Nurse Rock’s monthly report.
2. Letter of Resignation – Jeanne Buckley – Superintendent Lipp recognized Jeanne for her efforts. *Amy Gibbons moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for Jeanne Buckley as presented. Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
3. Letter of Resignation – Amy Larson – Superintendent Lipp recognized Amy for her efforts. *Amanda Agyeman-Budu moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for Amy Larson as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
4. Letter of Resignation – Ashley Vogl – Superintendent Lipp recognized Ashley for her efforts. *Amy Gibbons moved to accept the Letter of Resignation for Ashley Vogl as presented. Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Committee Report

Negotiations Committee – Amy Sironi, Kelly Hickey, Superintendent Lipp and Ms. Stovall met with the CCEA Union to begin contract negotiations. Kelly Hickey gave a summary of the negotiations team pre meeting planning and the discussions held with CCEA. The Board of Trustees proposed a two year contract (2021-2022 and 2022-2023). New insurance was proposed at a significant premium savings with better plan coverages. Upon acceptance of the insurance proposal, the board of trustees proposed a 2% increase to the salary base on the salary matrix. The CCEA union declined the proposal and no further action has been scheduled with no future meeting scheduled.

Amanda inquired why the Union declined the consensus process method since we have reverted back to an outdated negotiation method. The conflict from the Union when they declined the consensus process method was due to lack of availability of participation from the Union. When we met for our first negotiations session, not only the three committee Union members were present but a total of nine teachers were present. This is conflicting with the reason why the Union declined the consensus process method.

It was noted that there was minimal assistance from the teaching staff to work for the passing of the levy. The passing of the levy is what would help fund the raises to the teaching staff. The buy-in efforts put forth have been conflicting with the “wants” of the certified staff. Another item discussed was the Union declining the request from the trustees and administration to allow a SPED teacher to be hired at a higher step on the matrix in order to fill a position that had been open for an entire year. The District and students as a whole, would have benefited significantly from the hire but the Union declined the request.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent’s Report–
 1. Facility Projects – Superintendent Lipp shared details to the following facility projects.
 - a. Gym Floor – resurfacing is being completed this month.
 - b. New Refrigerator Unit – Through a school nutrition equipment assistance grant, the school purchased a new 2-door refrigeration unit.
 2. Staffing / Interviewing – Superintendent Lipp shared that certified staff interviews and paraprofessional interviews are actively taking place. Superintendent Lipp shared some specific student numbers per class and staffing assignments. The data was portraying anticipated numbers per grade level.
 3. Online Employment Applications – Superintendent Lipp shared that Aaron Dantic of Rimrock Tech has completed the coding for both the Certified and Classified Employment applications. The applications are now live on the school website.
 4. Online New Student Application – Superintendent Lipp shared that Aaron Dantic of Rimrock Tech has completed the coding for the New Student application. The application is now live on the school website.
 5. After School Tutoring Program – Superintendent Lipp shared that we are working towards a possible 2-year program, utilizing ESSER III funds. The goal is to provide additional assistance to any student who requests additional support.
 6. ESSER Funding – Superintendent Lipp shared that we are currently and actively working the budgets.
 7. Taking Some Time Away – Superintendent Lipp shared that he is taking vacation from June 16th – June 30th.

Old Business

- A. Open Board Trustee Position recruitment status update was given. There is currently an unexpired one-year term still vacant with no known interests.

B. ESSER II Funding Expenditures

- a. Contract for Replacement of Primary Wing Furnaces – There was detailed discussion on the existing furnace brands and correlating BTU's, an additional Carrier brand bid and an explanation from Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning on their proposed BTU's per furnace. All four bids were discussed and compared in detail. It was decided that the Lennox brand bids would be disregarded due to the potential of parts limitations due to the proprietary suppliers of that brand. The discussion continued in comparison between Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC and Wambeke Air & Mechanical, LLC. A significant concern is service after installation. The location of Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC in relation to the school and the response time if there was a service issue, was a deciding factor.

Amy Gibbons made a motion to accept the bid from Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC to replace the Primary Wing Furnaces, contingent upon the BTU's being appropriately sized for the rooms as presented. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with three yes votes – Amy Sironi, Amy Gibbons and Kelly Hickey. Amanda Agyeman-Budu voted no due to concerns of the BTU ratings proposed in the Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC bid.

New Business

A. New Hires

- a. Devan Farrar – Certified Teacher - Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp noted that she has 3 years' experience as a teacher.
Amanda Agyeman-Budu made a motion to hire Devan Farrar as a 1.0 FTE teacher for the 2021-2022 school year at a BA 4. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Madison Wingerter – Certified Teacher - Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp noted that she is a beginning teacher.
Amy Gibbons made a motion to hire Madison Wingerter as a 1.0 FTE teacher for the 2021-2022 school year at a BA 1. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Kirsten Weatherford – Classified Paraprofessional - Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp noted that she previously worked for Canyon Creek School and since leaving has been employed by the Laurel School District as a Lead Secretary.
Amanda Agyeman-Budu made a motion to hire Kirsten Weatherford as a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. MSGIA – Worker's Compensation Renewal Rates FY22 – Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall shared that the FY22 rates increased over the FY21 rates. The worker's compensation rate for the Teachers, Professionals will be 0.48. The existing rate for the Teachers, Professionals code is 0.47. The worker's compensation rate for All Other (custodial / kitchen) will be 6.20. The existing rate for All Other (custodial / kitchen) code is 5.76. During FY21 year to date, there has been one

worker's compensation claim with zero loss of work hours or financial impact to the district.

- C. MTSUIP – Unemployment Insurance Renewal Rates FY22 – Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall shared that the tax rate for unemployment will remain at 0.34%, same as the current year rate. This was surprising as there were unemployment claims paid out due to the pandemic.
- D. MSPLIP – Property and Liability Insurance Renewal Rates FY22 - Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall shared that the District policy premiums will increase 16%. The driver of this increase is due to the 06/24/2019 claim, resulting in the settlement to four teachers and incurred legal fees due to a complaint against the district for board meeting violations. This claim will stay on our policy history for five years and will remain in the calculation through 2024.
- E. First Student – Contract for Busing Services FY22 –Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp reported on his visit to First Student to voice the District's unhappiness with their services in FY21. Through communications with other Superintendent's there are issues for all Districts with bus services being able to find drivers. They promised change and improvements to their services. The District will continue to monitor their performance to make sure they are meeting the needs of the District.
Amy Gibbons made a motion to approve the First Student – Contract for Busing Services for FY22 as presented. Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Joint Advisory Board Member Appointment FY22 – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp shared that this is an annual requirement of the Yellowstone-West / Carbon County Special Services Cooperative in which the District must appoint a member to represent the Canyon Creek School District.
Amanda Agyeman-Budu made a motion to appoint Superintendent Lipp as our District representative on the Joint Advisory Board as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. ESSER II Budget – Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall presented the proposed budget, noting that the final numbers would reflect the action taken to accept the contract for the Primary Wing Furnace replacement. With that finalized, the budget projects include the gym boiler replacement, replacement of the primary wing furnaces and repair/replacement of the gym auxiliary doors. The remaining budget funds include the Indirect Cost Rate of 7.05% and Covid related supplies.
Amanda Agyeman-Budu made a motion to accept the ESSER II budget as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. ESSER III – Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan – Discussion was held. Ms. Stovall shared that this plan is a requirement of the American Rescue Plan release of ESSER III funding. It must be approved and posted to the school website by June 24, 2021 for public comment.
Amanda Agyeman-Budu made a motion to approve the Safe Return to School and Continuity of

Services Plan as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – July 19th

- A. Ratify Contract with CCEA
- B. Reissue Contracts per updated Contract
- C. Approve Health Insurance Contract FY22
- D. Approve Bus Routes
- E. Policy 1900 Series Review/Revision
- F. Lunch Fees and Other Miscellaneous Fees
- G. Approve Student Handbook for FY22
- H. Trustees Evaluate Prior Year Board Performance
- I. Review Goals

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Monday, July 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Amanda Agyeman-Budu moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk