

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

Call To Order

April 20, 2020

Chairman Joel Junso called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held via Zoom, to order at 6:42 p.m. by leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following trustees and officers were present: Joel Junso, Chair, Amy Sironi, Vice-Chair, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Trustee, Amy Gibbons, Trustee and Jason Ascherman, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present via Zoom: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Sheena Mallo, Teacher, Alesia Styren, Teacher, Ashley Vogl, Teacher, Shae Anderson, Teacher, Miranda Hayes, Teacher, Erin Cozzens, Paraprofessional.

Public Comment

None submitted.

Consent Agenda

Jason moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

A. Superintendent's Report–

1. COVID-19 – Agenda item I. will discuss in detail the District decision to continue with online learning or resume in-school learning. Superintendent Lipp noted that we are currently in Phase 1 of reopening guidelines. Per those guidelines, that would put us opening the middle of May if we were to resume in-school learning. He recommends continuing online learning through the end of the year. Lockwood has decided to continue online learning through the end of the school year and has publicized their decision. Elysian and Blue Creek are on the verge of continuing online learning through the end of the school year but have not publicized their decisions.
2. Bus Routes / First Student – Two routes are being ran, serving approximately 50 children. We increased from approximately 18 meals to 50. Our transportation contract with First Student was adjusted due to COVID-19; we are

paying 88% of our contracted rate for busing during the COVID-19 school closure. Superintendent Lipp noted that First Student is selling their company. The local administration has turned over and we have met and spoke with the new individuals.

3. Kindergarten Roundup – The district is currently not planning on holding an on-sight roundup. We will continue to advertise. The current plan is to bring them in the first two weeks of school, complete testing and then place the students within assigned classrooms. Superintendent Lipp asked that the others present share that we are advertising, and recommend to those interested, to contact the school and fill out enrollment paperwork.
4. Summer Food Service Program – The district participation in this program will only be in effect as long as COVID-19 closures are in effect (May 31, 2020). Joining this program does provide a higher rate of reimbursement for meal claims.
5. School Online – Currently only one family has needed additional technology support from the school. The school provided a jet pack to this family to give them internet access. This purchase is available through the flexible use of Transportation funds. Superintendent Lipp feels that our online schooling is going very well. There are teachers utilizing small group sessions, one-on-one sessions and group learning. It is going very well considering the circumstances.
6. Boiler – The boiler was replaced today and covered fully under warranty. The labor and pump replacement costs will be submitted for insurance claim reimbursement.
7. Pre-Kindergarten – The Certified Teacher Candidate interview is scheduled for tomorrow. The cooperative agreement is in the hands of Mr. Martin. He is working to complete that draft and then we will have it back in front of the board for approval. Superintendent Lipp does not know what Summer school will look like with the current status of the state.
8. Teaching Positions – Currently one elementary, one junior high and one music position are available. These positions have been posted with OPI. Deadlines for applications are May 1st.
9. Maintenance – The Custodial staff has switched over to the summer-mode of cleaning. They are working on shampooing carpets and painting in the cafeteria. They have also been disinfecting the building a couple times a week; taking extra efforts post packet pick-up days.
10. Levy – Superintendent Lipp is requesting that a committee be formed and detailed discussion take place to move forward with our efforts promoting the General Fund Levy.

New Business

- A. Election Timeline Update / Committee – Discussion was held. Draft timeline was shared from the Election Administrator. Per the draft timeline, the new election date to vote is July 7th.
- B. Business Manager / District Clerk Evaluation – Discussion was held. Requested that completed evaluations are returned to the Business Office by Wednesday, May 6th.

- C. Human Resources / Payroll Software Proposal / Quote – Discussion was held. Tyler Technologies quote was discussed in detail with the breakdown of software and implementation costs.
- D. Staff Appreciation Event Planning – Discussion was held. Historically, gift cards and a thank you have been given. The Board of Trustees will discuss externally, as several teachers were in attendance at the board meeting.
- E. Acceptance of Alesia Styren Letter of Resignation – Discussion was held. Alesia was thanked for her efforts and contributions while working at Canyon Creek School. Superintendent Lipp noted she was one of the first hires he completed at Canyon Creek and noted her willingness to do anything. She has accepted a position with Shepherd, as her son attends school there and she resides there.

Amanda moved to accept the Letter of Resignation from Alesia Styren as presented. Amy S. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Acceptance of Erik Lenington Letter of Resignation – Discussion was held. Erik was thanked for his efforts and contributions while working at Canyon Creek School. Superintendent Lipp noted that he did a great job. He has built some great relationships with the students while at Canyon Creek.

Amy S. moved to accept the Letter of Resignation from Erik Lenington as presented. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. MUST Insurance Contract – Discussion was held. The FY2020-21 contract reflected an increase of 6%.

Amanda moved to accept the MUST Insurance Contract for FY 2020-21 as presented. Amy S. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Memorandum of Agreement between Canyon Creek School District #4 and the Canyon Creek Education Association – Discussion was held.

Amy G. moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. COVID-19 District Status – Discussion was held. Samplings of a survey from OPI, with 8,000 respondents, resulted in 70% responding that they would not resume in-school instruction and 30% would resume in-school instruction if school is opened back up. Superintendent Lipp did share that we have a higher rate of medical workers within our parent community. With that, the risk of a transfer of the virus is higher. Superintendent Lipp noted that everyone, parents, students and staff would find some continuity in knowing either way, if school was extended online or going to resume in-school instruction. There are several items in the planning process for year-end requirements that could be finalized if a decision was made. Amy S. noted that she does not feel the testing is in place and results received in a timely manner to make a return to school. She noted that the safety of everyone is the number one priority.

Most discussions being held are that school closures are predicted to end the middle of May at the earliest. It was shared that there is a risk of opening the school too soon and the questionable liability for the District. In discussions with parents, many have shared that regardless of if in-school instruction resumes, many will not allow their students to attend. Multiple trustees noted that there is not a sustainable drop in numbers, not an uptick in testing and it's just too big of a risk with the minimal time left of the school year. It was noted that with

the end of our school year being so close, it just doesn't make sense to resume in-school instruction.

Joel is concerned about lack of student participation and engagement if the vote is to continue the online learning through the end of the school year. Superintendent Lipp and Mrs. Morales have been vigilantly communicating with students and parents to continue engagement in their education, even during these trying times. Teachers and Paraprofessionals have been fully engaged to reach students and have them learning at their full potential.

Amy S. noted that she feels a vote is required to give everyone the stability of knowing what they are doing for the remainder of the school year. Superintendent Lipp will draft a communication to the community, sharing the continuation of online learning through the end of the FY20 school year. He will continue to share state directed communications as they arise. His plan is to get the communication out in the morning, prior to the Governor's directive, whenever that may come.

Amy S. noted to the teachers who are online during this meeting that she appreciates all of their efforts and asked that Superintendent Lipp share the trustee's appreciation to all staff members. Superintendent Lipp also noted that virtual dress-up week is going fabulous and pictures are being shared to the school webpage and Facebook page.

Amy S. moved to approve the recommendation by Superintendent Lipp to extend on-line learning through the end of the FY20 school year as presented. Amy G. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Open / Planning Levy Meetings – Amy G., Amanda and Amy S. all volunteered. Superintendent Lipp asked to meet the first part of next week to discuss details. Zoom meeting will be sent to those interested. 10 a.m. on Monday or Wednesday.

8th Grade Promotion package for each student was discussed as an alternative to a social gathering. A Zoom ceremony was discussed as another option. Jason asked that we put out a quick survey to parents/students that would be a part of the promotion. Amy S. and Joel like the idea of baskets, as it's more personal. Another option would be to hold the promotion later in the summer.

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting

- A. Business Manager / District Clerk Evaluation (Executive Session)
- B. Trustees vote on renewals for Certified Staff (must be completed by June 1st)

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library, unless lawful restrictions for public meetings are still in place. If the public is still under restrictions, the meeting will be held via Zoom at the same date and time.

Amanda moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Amy S. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joel Junso, Chairman

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk