

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

Call To Order

November 15, 2021

Vice-Chair Amy Gibbons 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 Gibbons, Vice-Chair, Kelly Hickey, Trustee, James Wiesner, Trustee and Carl Siroky, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Amy Sironi, Chair was absent from the meeting.

Additional guests present: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Christina Stormer, Teacher, Wendy Bekkedahl, Candi Allen, Becca Sedlacek, Kasey Felder, Paraprofessional, Jennell Duey, Jenny Koffler

Adjustments to the Agenda

None submitted.

Public Comment

Wendy Bekkedahl – Evaluation Plan to Board. Per the Union Master Agreement, it requires that the Superintendent remit an evaluation plan/schedule to the Board of Trustees by August. She is questioning if a plan was remitted in August. January 25th is the deadline for the first evaluation to be completed for all non-tenured teachers. Requesting a report from the Superintendent on the evaluation status.

Kasey Felder – NorthWestern Energy Power Plant. She thanked the board of trustees for their efforts and noted her appreciation as both a parent and staff member. She brought to the attention of the board that NorthWestern Energy is pursuing building a power plant east of Laurel. She is wanting to bring awareness to the potential negative effects to customer financials and pollutants.

Jennell Duey – Jr. High Grading. She thanked the trustees for their efforts. She questioned the District grading system. She is questioning if a 3-2-1 grading system is beneficial to the students and status of preparation for high school level academics. She felt like student/teacher conferences were discouraged last year and she had to go to bat to get the conference completed. She is requesting that the grading system be reviewed and a follow-up take place with her.

Consent Agenda

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

Correspondence

1. RiverStone Health School Nurse Report - Superintendent Lipp shared Nurse Rock's monthly report.
Mr. Siroky inquired if the nurse supplies preventative informational clinics throughout the year. Superintendent Lipp did share her role and responsibilities, including informational clinics.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent's Report –
 1. Athletics – Superintendent Lipp shared that Boys Basketball has begun with enough participants for four teams. There are 29 total athletes.
 2. Concerts – Superintendent Lipp shared that the concerts are scheduled for December 14th K-4th grade and December 16th 5th – 8th grade.
 3. Report Cards – Superintendent Lipp shared the first trimester ends this Friday, November 19th.
 4. Conferences – Superintendent Lipp shared that conferences are held in December to give a more rounded feedback to parents. There will be an electronic scheduling of conferences and the conferences will be held in person.
 5. Transportation – Superintendent Lipp shared that he has been working on transportation routes to evaluate all stops in which a student crosses the street. All efforts to eliminate stops in which students cross the street are being made. Each stop in which the students cross the street must be approved by the board of trustees. He will continue to work through the routes to evaluate and adjust as needed.
 6. Evaluations – Superintendent Lipp shared that he will be completing the first round of evaluations before the end of the calendar year. He recognizes the importance of staff evaluations and they will be his focus for the next month and a half.
 7. Maintenance / Septic – Superintendent Lipp shared that there has been a temporary fix to the leaking septic drain line in the drain field. The line broke apart and created a large sink hole due to ground settlement. A more permanent fix will be completed this summer.
- 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. October numbers were down in comparison to the previous month. Defiance and disrespect continue to be the highest categories of referrals. Discipline issues are regularly occurring in the classroom. Junior High has the most write-ups.
 2. Polar Plunge – Mrs. Morales shared that we have our very own Canyon Creek Special Olympics team. Every year they hold a "Polar Plunge" to raise money for Special Olympics. The event is scheduled for Friday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm. The money raised goes directly to our students here at Canyon Creek who participate. At this time, bowling and track & field is offered to our athletes.

New Business

- A. FY21 Worker's Compensation Audit – Ms. Stovall shared per the audit results, the district is reporting perfectly with \$0 variance between reported and audited payrolls. No problems and no findings were the final report. The board complimented Ms. Stovall on her efforts.
- B. MTSBA Draft Policy Manual Review – Committee Appointment – Superintendent Lipp recommended that due to the sheer volume of reviewing the district policies and getting the work done, he would propose the following board committee assignments. Policy 1000 – 4000 Amy Gibbons and Carl Siroky, Policy 5000 – 9000 Kelly Hickey and James Wiesner. He recommended that the assigned trustees set some dates for review. After the trustees review, we will have an opportunity to meet with MTSBA in person about policy adjustments and guidance for change.

Mr. Siroky made note that he wanted to make sure the public had access to the policies. It was shared that the policies, once updated, would be posted to the school website.

James Wiesner made a motion to appoint Policy 1000 – 4000 to a committee of Amy Gibbons and Carl Siroky, Policy 5000 – 9000 to a committee of Kelly Hickey and James Wiesner as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Extra-Curricular Contracts –

- a. New Hire – Mike Kent – 5/6 Boys Basketball

Superintendent Lipp recommended to the Board of Trustees to approve Mike Kent as the 5/6 boys basketball coach.

James Wiesner made a motion to approve the hire of Mike Kent as the 5/6 boys basketball coach as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. New Hire – Silvia Matt – Student Council

Superintendent Lipp recommended to the Board of Trustees to approve Silvia Matt as the Student Council advisor.

James Wiesner made a motion to approve the hire of Silvia Matt as Student Council advisor as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Interactive Flat Panel Purchase – Superintendent Lipp recommended the purchase of the SMART Interactive Flat Panels. These panels are considerably more economical and do not use a projector method which has been the weak link in the existing Pro Boards. The SMART panel has a five-year warranty and the costs include the subscription of the learning suite. The teachers can use this interactive platform for creative and organized instruction. The flat panels would be paid for with ESSER III funds, as the expenditure is not feasible in the general fund. This need has been a priority for several years and is much needed to help support our students and teachers in the classroom. The current bid covers all the classrooms that are being used for instruction.

There were inquiries on the subscription cost after the 5-year SMART Learning Suite subscription expires and if that cost would be manageable for the budget. There were also questions on a timeline to have them in the classroom. It was estimated that they would be in

the classroom by February.

Kelly Hickey made a motion to approve the purchase of the Interactive Flat Panels, utilizing ESSER III funds as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Covid / School Health Update – Superintendent Lipp reviewed the Yellowstone County Schools Weekly Report, week reviewed 10-31-21 – 11-06-21. 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 in the past month, he continues to see some cases of Covid in our student body. The cases have dropped and seem to be very light at this time. Over the month of October, the District had twenty-two reported exposures or close contacts from parents. Out of the twenty-two reports, there was one positive case in the student body. Parents have been great about keeping the District informed on each situation. All of this is good news for the District. In reviewing the school environment, Superintendent Lipp believes the students and staff are doing very well. 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 good news is that student cases are declining. 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.
- Mr. Wiesner noted that after-hours, extra-curricular activities becomes a policing job with our current mask mandate in place. He is inquiring if the masking mandate could be reconsidered for after-hours. Mrs. Gibbons stated that the liability is still the biggest concern. There was audience participation in sharing their support of masking at all times, even during extra-curricular activities. The comment was made that regardless of mask mandates, visitors will follow or not follow the requirements.
- MT PEC has a FAQ document that Carl Siroky referenced and recommended that all should read it for liability reference and understanding.
- Mr. Wiesner noted there is a liability versus a practicality issue. Superintendent Lipp shared that he is following the guidance of the leaders across the educational community (MT PEC).
- F. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety - Review – Discussion was held. No change will be made due to the data from the unified health command still being in the red. Mr. Siroky noted that he felt the board should be focusing on strategies to prevent/improve personal health versus focusing on RiverStone Health data. He feels the data they provide is inadequate. Instead, the District needs to focus on personal health and education. Wendy Bekkedahl shared her concern for lack of implementing policy at all extra-curricular policies. The enforceability of the policy is challenging at extra-curricular activities and she is questioning the liability. Mrs. Gibbons shared that the preventative efforts in place are the due diligence of the district.

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – December 9th

- A. Covid / School Health Update
- B. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety – Review (*Information*)
- C. CCEA MOU
- D. Individual Bus Stop Approvals
- E. FY21 Audit Summary
- F. Directions given to the Trustees by the Chair for completing the Superintendent’s evaluation
- G. Overview of Standardized Grading

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, December 9th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Carl Siroky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk