

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 26, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Business Building Boardroom

Board of Trustees Present: Michael Beers, Grace M. Decker, Heidi Kendall, Vice Chair Diane Lorenzen, Vicki McDonald, Jennifer Newbold, Mike Smith, Sharon Sterbis, Vice Chair Ann Wake

Board of Trustees Absent: Elliott Dugger and Marcia Holland

Others Present: Mark Thane, Pat McHugh, Dave Rott, Burley McWilliams and Hatton Littman

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND ROLL CALL at 6:01 p.m. Vice Chair Diane Lorenzen called the meeting to order. Roll call: Trustees Beers, Smith, Decker, Kendall, Newbold, Lorenzen, McDonald, Sterbis and Wake
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was said by all.
3. REVIEW, REVISE, AND APPROVE AGENDA - Trustees approved as agenda as presented.
4. APPROVE MINUTES
  - A. Board of Trustees Regular Meeting June 12, 2018 – Trustee Wake made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018 regular Board meeting, and Trustee Kendall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE
  - A. Public Comment - Melanie Charlson, President MEA and Vice President of the MFT noted that the Six Mill levy that was initiated in 1914 is up for renewal and will be on the November ballot. This levy provides approximately \$20M to the University, and it is not an increase, but simply reaffirm of those six same mills. She will be travelling with union work this summer and will provide updates to the board on these meetings.  
There was no further public comment.
  - B. Correspondence – Written correspondence is included in the packet.
6. COMMUNITY CONNECTION
  - A. Zero Waste Committee – Katie Anderson, Energy Corps Services and Jeremy Drake from Home Resources provided an update on the Zero Waste Committee's work and future endeavors. Mr. Thane noted that S.A.V.E. asked that MCPS embark on a zero waste initiative. Other committee members here tonight are Kim Johnson, Hatton Littman, Trustee Mike Smith and himself.  
Katie Anderson, Energy Corp Services, talked about how the committee plans to integrate the zero waste committee ideas into the school district. Jeremy Drake reported that the goal was to reduce solid waste by 50% by 2050. The committee worked with members of the community and developed a partnership. They drafted a plan with the City and modeled the MCPS zero waste plan after the City plan using the same framework. They held student listening session at the MCPS high schools and received their feedback. They came up with a MCPS ZERO by FIFTY Zero Waste Plan.  
Public Comment: Kim Johnson, Franklin 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. When the kids saw "plastic island" the students and staff worked on what things they had control over. Between composting and recycling plastic to the University, the only garbage by the end of the day was milk cartons. The kids made a big difference and will continue the program.  
Kim Carlson, Hellgate HS kitchen worker, noted she is inspired and anxious to move forward with the plan quickly, and offered to provide a list of products to change.  
Mr. Drake commented that in follow up to Kim Johnson, this coming year is the first year that students that have come through the WRAP program. MS might be a good place to begin programs so that the idea continues.
7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Health Insurance Trust Fund Report – Vice Chair Lorenzen noted the May 2018 health insurance trust fund report in the agenda packet.
  - B. Student Trustee Report – Sentinel HS Student Trustee end of year report is included in the packet.
  - C. Announcements from Superintendent – Superintendent Mark Thane reviewed a few calendar items listed in the agenda packet. He noted that the second Board meeting scheduled on

July 24 would be cancelled. Board meetings will resume on August 14 and fully immersed with budget adoption. Mr. Thane extended a welcome to new Trustee Sharon Sterbis who will be filling the high school trustee position for the remainder of the year and running for election in May 2019. He announced that the district made an offer to Barbara Frank for the Lowell Principal position. She has served as Principal at the Elysian School District in Billings and the Belgrade School District. Trustee Decker was a presenter at MBI

- D. Announcements from Trustees – Trustee Decker announced that recently there has been a few incidents at schools that administration has made statements releasing student citizenship information. It is both a Supreme Court decision, and MCPS policy to not collect or release ethnic information.

Trustee Lorenzen noted MCEL registration is open.

## 8. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. FINANCE, OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- i. Topic: Approve MCPS Student Attendance Agreements – There were two agreements.
- ii. Topic: Approve the May 2018 Revenue and Expenditure Reports – Vice Chair Lorenzen asked that trustees receive the expenditure reports via email. Trustee Kendall made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Trustee McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS – Information or Action

### A. TEACHING and LEARNING

- i. Topic: Approve Grant Application Summary – Superintendent Mark Thane noted that in alignment with trustee conversations regarding an early kindergarten program, he submitted a grant request to the Heman Foundation, and they sent a check for \$60,000 last week. Mr. Thane is hopeful that the district will initiate an early kindergarten program this fall. Administration will provide more details to the board. There were no board questions. Trustee Decker made a motion to approve the Jane S Heman Foundation Grant Application Summary, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by all elementary trustees present.

### B. FINANCE, OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE

- i. Topic: Approve Renewal of Montana School Board Association Membership – Superintendent Mark Thane noted that compelling reasons to renew membership include the ability to participate in MTSBA programs, such as workers compensation and unemployment insurance for the district, and Trustee Wake is president of the MTSBA. The dues obligation is based on ANB enrollment and the current renewal is \$17,919.30. MTSBA advocates to legislators on issues that trustees decide on and many other issues, and provide professional education at no cost, webinars, and many other things. Trustee Newbold made a motion to approve renewal of the Montana School Board Association membership for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. There was no board comment, and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.
- ii. Topic: Approve Renewal of Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Membership – Superintendent Mark Thane noted that MQEC is funded by school districts across the state and they work to advocate for funding for school districts. Trustees heard from Diane Burke, President of MQEC in previous years and their primary work is legislation. The membership cost for AA districts to participate during 2018-2019 is \$4000. Trustee Wake made a motion to approve renewal of the Montana Quality Education Coalition membership for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and Trustee Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.
- iii. Topic: Homevale Property Sale Discussion – Superintendent Mark Thane noted this high school property is located across the street from the MCPS Business Building, and is commonly referred to as the Homevale property. In 2004, the District sold a right-of-way through the Homevale property for the Brooks/South Russell intersection project. Part of the property is being used as a staging area for the Washington bond project and the other part has a storage building referred to as Casa Loma. The district would like to do some remodeling of the former Missoula College, and that will require funds. Pat McHugh

noted this is an introduction to the concept of potentially selling the Homevale property. Attached to the agenda is a contemplated timeline and a cost market analysis showing the two different parcels created by the City right-of-way. At this time, there remains a small obligation to the University on the transfer of ownership. There are two analyses available; however, administration recommends contracting with an appraiser to re-evaluate the property at current market value. The sale would be consummated with a resolution. This property has never been used for school purposes other than to store used items, and most recently, Missoula College students used the property for parking. Mr. McHugh explained the timeline, and provided more detail on how the property was acquired. The board could look at an RFP process based upon the appraisal. Mr. McHugh noted per statute a resolution is required to sell or otherwise dispose of the district real or personal property, because it is or is about to become abandoned, obsolete, undesirable, or unsuitable for the school purposes of the district. The property is part of the Tax Increment District, which is very favorable, and the zoning may be broad. There are two pieces of properties with separate legal descriptions based on the right-of-way, and trustees could look at each piece separately or as one. An appraiser could provide information on potential use. Trustee Kendall expressed concern for the type of retail that is not appropriate near a school district, and questioned if the board could request some sort of restrictions or a right of refusal. Mr. McHugh reported that RFP could have contractual parameters set and not allow contingencies. Trustees would have input in valuing a RFP response; however, it would be difficult to not have the price drive the decision. This would be a good discussion with legal counsel. The current cost of maintaining the property includes minimal utilities, minor floor repair, and roof repair was done due to water damage. Mr. Thane noted that this property was considered as a site for the new Willard School, but the staff felt the property had more of a commercial feel and the division of the road was not desirable. Trustee Lorenzen noted the timeline was short and recommended the resolution be presented and then brought back for a vote. Mr. McHugh concurred and noted that an appraisal may take time.

- iv. Topic: 2018-19 Budget Update – Pat McHugh, Executive Director of Business and Operations reviewed the budget projections for FY2019. New ANB funding information was received last week, which will lower the high school general fund budget by approximately \$5000. In considering reductions, administration is looking at one-time-only savings of workers compensation credit and Medicaid reimbursements, charging for rental of space utilized by Adult Education, moving technology costs to the technology fund, a 10% hold back on discretionary allocations to the high schools, and an Interlocal agreement to balance the budgets. There is still work to be done. Data for Achievement is not incorporated into the budget under SB261, but listed for purposes of a full picture. There were no questions from the board, and no public comment.
- v. Topic: Approve Elementary Transportation Fund Budget Amendment Resolution 2018-16(E) – Pat McHugh, Executive Director of Business Services, noted that this is the budget amendment resolution to help cover a shortfall in the elementary transportation fund due to adding a bus route and costs related to Montana Behavioral Institute (MBI) training for Beach Transportation staff. Funds would be pulled from reserves. Trustee Smith made a motion to approve budget amendment resolution 2018-16(E) in the amount of \$138,000 for the Elementary Transportation Fund, and Trustee Kendall seconded the motion. There were no questions from the board, and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by all elementary trustees present.
- vi. Topic: Approve High School Transportation Fund Budget Amendment Resolution 2018-14(S) – Pat McHugh, Executive Director of Business Services, noted this high school resolution is similar to the elementary resolution. The high school resolution requests additional funds in the amount of \$30,000 to cover a shortfall due to the costs related to MBI training for Beach Transportation staff. Trustee McDonald made a motion to approve budget amendment resolution 2018-14(S) in the amount of \$30,000 for the High School Transportation Fund, and Trustee Sterbis seconded the motion. There were no questions

from the board, and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.

- vii. Topic: Grant Permission to Seek Quotes for Network Switches – Pat McHugh, Executive Director of Business and Operations, noted that this is a practice using cooperative purchasing from the WSCA/NASPRO program. It is not a formal bid, but a bid from the vendors within the cooperative. The switches will be for Washington, Jeannette Rankin, and Hellgate HS. Trustee Wake made a motion granting permission to seek quotes for switches using the WSCA/NASPO program, and Trustee Newbold seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion passed was unanimous by all trustees present.

- viii. Topic: Authorize Engagement of Big Sky High School General Contractor/Construction Manager Selection – Burley McWilliams, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor thanked the committee who screened for the GC/CM, and reviewed the process for selection for the benefit of the new Trustee Sterbis. The committee recommended Jackson Construction Group for the GC/CM for Big Sky HS. Mr. McWilliams noted that all bond project information is available on the MCPS website. Trustee Newbold made a motion to authorize the engagement of Jackson Contractor Group to act as General Contractor/Construction Manager for the Big Sky High School construction and renovation project. Trustee Wake seconded the motion. There was no board discussion. Public Comment: Eric Hulteng, MCPS Owner's Representative for the bond projects, noted that he is working on a report of facts and figures that is very impressive to be shared with trustees.

The motion passed unanimously by all trustees present.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT – Regarding Non-Agenda Items (3 minutes each speaker)

11. ADJOURN – Vice Chair Diane Lorenzen adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

As recording secretary for this Board meeting, I certify these minutes to be a true and correct copy of what was taken at the meeting.

Lenora Jacobs, Minutes Recorder

Diane Lorenzen, Board Chair

Pat McHugh, District Clerk