

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – January 10, 2022

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Dawn Blain, Justin Oswald, Melvin Stene, Kathy Grewell, Sharon Songstad, Doug Whitehead and Karin Williams. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, Clark Begger, Elementary/MS Principal, and Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager. Visitors in attendance were: Mandi Hernandez, Brandy Feller, Riley Killion, Samuel Smith, Breanna Blain, and Stacie Nardinger.

Dawn Blain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Blain welcomed guests, explained procedure and asked for public comment.

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Reports

- a. Student Council – Breanna Blain updated the Board on the student council’s sing-along which was enjoyed by all who attended. A semi-formal winter dance will be held January 15, 2022 at the Joliet Community Center. The Fun day activities are being planned, and date is set for March 8, 2022.
- b. Athletic Director – Ms. Hernandez notified the Board that January 8th was the last game for 7/8 grade boys’ basketball team, there were 20 athletes this year. 5/6 grade boys’ basketball will begin the first week of February, there are 18 athletes participating. The high school C squad is seeing some fluctuations in their schedule. There is a South Central AD Meeting set for Friday, January 14, 2022 where spring schedules will be set. Peyton Whitehead has signed to play softball for Miles City Community College. Hayden Ward has signed with Rocky Mountain College for football.
- c. Transportation – Sam Smith gave an update on the status of the work being done to clean up the bus barn. In discussing the Tool Cat with the new facilities crew, it has been determined that the snow blower and sander are not necessary for the District. Sam has spoken with the dealer and they are open to trading in those pieces for a blade and other brushes that would be more useful. Justin Oswald commented that we need to ensure we are getting the most out of our trade. The alumni workers have done an excellent job cleaning up the bus facility. Bus repairs are ongoing, and we are getting all buses up-to-date with service that is needed to keep them running efficiently. Bus inspections will be done this month by the Highway Patrol per OPI requirements. We have potentially two new bus drivers. With the changes coming for the CDL requirements, it will be more difficult to recruit drivers. According to new regulations, the extended stop arms will be installed over the summer break.
- d. Building Report – The building report that was provided in the Board packet for review. Alumni workers helped with sanitizing, cleaning out the pole barn and clearing out the bus barn over the break. The new maintenance staff is doing well. Russ Salo did some training with them to get them up to speed. The Board was provided with the inspection done by Payne West for the entire facility.

- V. Correspondence – Correspondence was provided to the Board.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Digital Reader Board – A representative from Sign Pro of Billings came on January 4th to do a site assessment. The Board was provided mock ups of the potential new reader board. Sign Pro plans to attend the Joliet Town Council meeting on January 18th to follow-up with possible locations. Updates will be provided to the Board on the progress of the project.

VII. New Business

- a. Work Study Program – The Board was provided with information about the first official work study participant.
- b. HVAC Bids – The HVAC project is and ESSER III, capital outlay project approved by the Office of Public Instruction. The business manager placed the advertisements for sealed HVAC bids for the elementary wing per policy requirements. The deadline for bids was 4:00 p.m. on January 6, 2022. No bids were received.
- c. Sound System Bids – The Board was provided bids from Comtech and Daktronics. The District has received a donation for a new sound system. The Daktronics bid is \$25,745 and the Comtech bid is \$27,676. Both are reputable companies with whom the District has had good experiences. After discussion, the Board would like more information on the systems before making a decision.
- d. Emergency Connectivity Funding – Joliet Public Schools was approved for the E-rate Emergency Connectivity Funding (ECF). These funds match a quote of 100 Chromebooks from CTL for \$36,000. Forms have been filled out by administration, the District IT contractor and Joliet’s E-rate program manager. Once the Chromebooks arrive, the District will pay the invoice and get reimbursed from USAC 100% up to the cap. There is a slight lag in the reimbursement, so we are checking into ramifications of the reimbursement crossing fiscal years.
- e. Election Resolution – There will be three elementary trustee positions open during this election cycle. The Board discussed at a previous meeting continuing the tech levy that will expire this year. The 2017 tech levy was set at \$30,000 for the elementary district, and \$20,000 for the high school district. According to Montana State Statute, Trustees must call for an election at least 70 days prior to Election Day.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to call for a mail ballot elementary trustee and tech levy election on May 3, 2022. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Doug Whitehead made a motion to call for a mail ballot high school tech levy election on May 3, 2022. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

VIII. Personnel

- a. Resignations
None.
- b. Hiring
None.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve an increase in the instructional aide hourly wage to be more competitive. Currently aides and paraprofessionals start at \$11.00 per hour and receive a \$.25 increase each year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to increase the hourly wage for aides and paraprofessionals by \$1.00 to make it more competitive with industry standards effective January 18, 2022. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IX. Principal/Business Manager Reports

High School Principal – Ms. Evertz advised the Board on: high school academics, BPA regional results, the musical theater class play, the winter semi-formal dance, and the MHSA annual meeting in Butte set for January 15-17.

Principal – Mr. Begger provided the Board with an update on: K-8 instruction; GATE activities, 2nd quarter report card dates, and winter MAPs testing.

Superintendent – Ms. Evertz updated the Board on the security film installation, negotiations with the JTA set for January 20th, and the strategic planning session set for January 25th.

Business Manager – Ms. Smith provided the Board with reports of all claims paid, payroll disbursements, and a financial statement.

X. Executive Session – Dawn Blain determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session. Mr. Begger was excused from the meeting.

Executive Session began at 7:43 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 8:46 p.m.

XI. Items for Next Agenda

Sound System Bids
Reader Board
Negotiations Update

XII. Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan

No changes to the Plan were necessary.

XIII. Next Board Meeting Date

The next regular Board meeting will be held February 14, 2022 in the Joliet School Library.

XIV. Adjournment

Melvin Stene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved

02/14/2022

Board Chair

Dawn Blain

Clerk

[Signature]