

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – September 14, 2020

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on September 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Melvin Stene, Justin Oswald, Sharon Songstad, Dawn Blain, Doug Whitehead, Kathy Grewell, and Josh Bachler. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, Clark Begger, Elementary/MS Principal, and Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager. Visitors in attendance were: Mandi Hernandez, Terra Rockhold Stene, Riley Killion, Brandy Feller, Stacie Nardinger and Karin Williams.

Melvin Stene called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Stene welcomed guests, explained procedure and asked for public comment. Brandy Feller gave public comment regarding COVID-19 procedures and Carbon County Public Health/Joliet Response to a positive case.

Doug Whitehead made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IV. Reports

- a. Student Council – Cody Dworshak informed the Board about Homecoming week, which will be September 21st through the 25th. The Council wanted to maintain as many traditions as possible, so they will continue with boys' volleyball, girls' football, the parade and dress-up days. They are in discussions with administration about having a dance on the football field. The parade will be at approximately 2:10 on Friday the 25th.
- b. Athletic Director – Mandi Hernandez reported that fall sport are going well. MHSAs changes are frequent. 5/6 Grade football and volleyball are going well. Mr. Begger commended the Athletic Directors on the phenomenal job they are doing under trying, and often, rapidly changing circumstances.
- c. Building Report – A building report was provided in the Board packet for review.

V. Correspondence – Correspondence was provided to the Board.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Interest Based Bargaining Training – The Joliet Teachers' Association and the Board of Trustees will begin training on September 22nd, at 4:30 PM in the school library.

VII. New Business

- a. Board Retreat Date – The Board Retreat Date is set for November 30, 2020. We will convene at 6:00 PM in the multi-purpose room for dinner, and the move into the library for a training session with our legal counsel from Felt-Martin, PC.
- b. Adopt Policy 1900 – The 1900 policy series was written by Montana School Boards Association for COVID-19 Emergency Policies. The Board has adopted many of the policies in the 1900 series, but inadvertently did not re-adopt Policy 1900 for this school year. Policy 1900 sets forth the purposes for the 1900 emergency policies for the current pandemic.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to adopt Policy 1900 from the 1900 Policies Series through the 2020-21 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- c. Co-operative with Billings Central Catholic High School – The District will need to present to MHSA, in January or February, its interest in continuing the co-op with Central for wrestling and softball. This is simply a reminder that this item will be actionable at an upcoming board meeting. Central AD Mike Ryan stated that the staff and coaches have really enjoyed our student athletes.

- d. Type E Vehicle – The District is short bus drivers currently and is having a difficult time recruiting bus drivers. With so few bus drivers, we are often left scrambling to find help, and the facility crew has been filling in where necessary, but that is not ideal as it takes them away from their regular duties. Because of the shortage of drivers, extracurricular activities are becoming more difficult to manage. In consultation with the ADs, teams have been identified that could feasibly take two SUVs to get to their away destinations, thus removing the obstacle of finding a bus driver. Those teams include; cross country, speech and drama, some FFA trips, some 5/6 grade teams and the BPA. When teams are away and parents cannot attend due to stipulations resulting from current social distancing mandates, then extra vehicles for emergency trips to the hospital are necessary. For all of the reasons mentioned above, we are in need of a reliable second vehicle. The types of vehicles that fulfill requirements for Type E are scarce and move quickly off lots when they are available. For this reason, the District will need to act quickly if a vehicle becomes available for purchase.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve spending authority up to \$45,000 for an additional five-star rated school vehicle. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- e. Substitute Teacher Shortage – The District has always experienced a shortage of substitute teachers. With the current health crisis, that shortage has become more acute. Many school districts are creating incentives to attract substitute teachers by increasing the daily rate significantly. Superintendent Evertz would like to recommend hiring a permanent roving substitute teacher for \$14 per hour through December 31st. This would allow the District to utilize the CRF grant money from the Governor’s office to pay for the substitute.

Justin Oswald made a motion to approve the hiring of a permanent roving substitute teacher through December 31, 2020 using CRF money. Josh Bachler seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

- f. Memorandum of Understanding between District and JTA – The Union President met with Superintendent Evertz to discuss and MOU for the coming school year. After discussing the MOU with the union members, the JTA would like the full verbiage explaining the FFCRA leave to be included in the MOU.

Justin Oswald made a motion to ratify the MOU effective September 14, 2020. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

VIII. Personnel

- a. Hiring
Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Morgan McQuillan as the assistant speech and drama coach for the 2020-21 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Morgan McQuillan as the assistant speech and drama coach for the 2020-21 school year. Josh Bachler seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Jennifer Forsman as the 6-8 grade girls' assistant basketball coach for the 2020-21 school year.

Dawn Blain made a motion to hire Jennifer Forsman as the 6-8 grade girls' assistant basketball coach for the 2020-21 school year. Josh Bachler seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Paige Smith as the 5th grade girls' basketball coach for the 2020-21 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Paige Smith as the 5th grade girls' basketball coach for the 2020-21 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Natalie Cook as the Distance Learning Coordinator through December 31, 2020 at \$14.00 per hour to be paid out of CRF money.

Dawn Blain made a motion to hire Natalie Cook as the Distance Learning Coordinator through December 31, 2020 at \$14.00 per hour to be paid out of CRF money. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Brigham Smith as a temporary, additional custodian through December 31, 2020 at \$12.00 per hour to be paid out of CRF money.

Dawn Blain made a motion to hire Brigham Smith as a temporary, additional custodian through December 31, 2020 at \$12.00 per hour to be paid out of CRF money. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

IX. Superintendent/Principal/Business Manager Reports

Superintendent – Ms. Evertz advised the Board on: working with the K-12 Vision Group; the memorial service and volleyball games set for September 19th; the Class B caucus for MASS, which she will be running on September 22nd; fall concert has been moved to Saturday October 17th, which will be held on the football field and have a theme of “American Pride”; grant deadlines; homecoming; ACE annual PIR day set for September 28th.

Principal – Mr. Begger provided the Board an update on: K-7 instruction; elementary IAT meeting; MAPs testing; and PAX school grant.

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

X. Items for Next Agenda
Exterior Grounds Walk

XI. Next Board Meeting Date
The next regular Board meeting will be held October 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library.

XII. Adjournment
Dawn Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried.

Approved 10/19/2020

Clerk 

Chairman 