The Board of Trustees of Circle Elementary and High School District No. One, McCone County, met in regular session on January 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the high school library. Trustees present: Bryce Hove, Dusty White, Cary Phillips, Tate Switzer, Tyrel Massar, & Krista Beery. Also in attendance were Clerk Della Van Horn, Superintendent Dr. Dern, Interim k-8 principal Tara Hubing, Averi Pasma, Lindsey Williams, Amanda Marscheillo, Tracy Gasper, Ali Massar, Floyd & Diane Yarger, Estelle Nagel, Rachel Overby, Alan Stempel, Megan Knuth & Ashlee Sunderman.

Chairman Hove called the meeting to order with the pledge and by welcoming the visitors.

Lindsey Williams announced that it is “National School Board Month”. Thank you cards were presented to each board member and cupcakes were provided by the CTA.

Lindsey reported that 19 BPA students competed at regionals and 19 students made it to the state competition. The board congratulated them for their great accomplishments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were made to the December 15 minutes – lower changed to lobby and duplicate adjournment of meeting. Moved by Phillips, seconded by Hove to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Moved by White, seconded by Phillips to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2021 special meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Moved by White, seconded by Phillips to approve the consent agenda of January payroll & claims, (include Apex roofing bill) and the budget balance report ending January 11, 2022. Della reported that the water bill was significantly larger this month than last month. After conferring with the city, they called back and said that there was a miscalculation and we owed $1,110 on the high school. Moved by White, seconded by Phillips to approve the consent agenda with Apex roofing included. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

AD REPORT

The MHSA annual meeting is in Butte on January 16 & 17. 9 proposals will be voted on. Averi will be attending.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of Safe return to Schools – no changes and no comments

FOOTBALL FIELD WATERING

No action. Superintendent and maintenance staff will handle. Dr. Dern will check with the city on possibly getting a “bulk” rate.

PURCHASE OF FOOTBALL FIELD

Advice had been received from the MTSBA that we would need to run an election to purchase the football field because it is not adjacent to our current land. Alan Stempel addressed the board and said that the county had been interested in “trading” property as they may extend the courthouse in the future and would need to extend on school property. The county attorney and the commissioners will need to be consulted as how we would proceed. Moved by Switzer, seconded by Phillips to table any decision on the purchase of the football field. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

INTERIM PRINCIPAL CONTRACT

The compensation of the interim contract needs to go to the negotiations committee. Moved by White, seconded by Massar to table the interim K-8 principal contract. Motion carried unanimously by the elementary board.

K READY

Discussion was held on K Ready. Megan Knuth talked about a survey that will be going out to parents to estimate the number of parents that might be interested in a K Ready program. There are many considerations such as transportation, curriculum, and sustainability of budget, full day VS ½ day. We will move forward with the research. Moved by Switzer, seconded by Phillips to table any decision on the K Ready program. Motion carried unanimously by the elementary board.

DRIVERS EDUCATION

Moved by White, seconded by Massar to table any decision on the driver’s education instructor. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

RESIGNATION

A letter of resignation was read from Megan Murrell. Moved by White, seconded by Massar to accept the letter of resignation from Megan Murrell effective December 28, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by the elementary board.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Moved by White, seconded by Phillips to offer Dr. Gregory Dern a 9-12 principal/superintendent contract for the 2022-23 year with terms and conditions to be negotiated at a later time. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lindsey and Krista reported on the technology committee meeting. Chromebooks are being switched out (Jeff took some). The camera system needs updated. Jeff will get us a quote and also a 2nd quote. He suggested an AP on your phone and to go “cloud” based and eliminate the server. The NFHS cameras were moved.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mrs. Hubing reported that Mary James from the county library will be here teaching “coding” to students; Fastbridge testing is underway, 3rd grade will be putting on a living history presentation; MCT is January 24th through 29th.

9-12 principal/superintendent report

Dr. Dern spoke on the “work force initiative” which creates jobs for high school students. The BPE “Board of Public Ed”, is meeting on educator licensing and changes and flexibility.

Dr. Dern complimented Ashlee Sunderman on the after school program and stated she is a “good leader” and is uplifting for the program. Katelyn Hogan is working out as the assistant.

FUTURE ISSUES

Handbooks, election resolution and judges, tech specialist stipends.

Committee meetings scheduled:

Building Committee February 1; 5:30 pm

Safety Committee February 8; 4:30 pm

Regular board meeting February 8; 6:00 pm

Negotiations committee for Interim Principal, Superintendent, & Tech stipends TBD

Calendar committee TBD

Moved by White, seconded by Beery to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

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