

The Board of Trustees of Circle Elementary and High School District No. One, McCone County, met in special session on March 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the high school library for the purpose of action necessary due to the coronavirus and Governor shutdown of schools for two weeks that affects the health and safety of students and district employees or functions of the district.

Trustees present: Dusty White, Tyrel Massar, Cary Phillips & Krista Beery. Absent: Moline & Hove. Also in attendance were Clerk Della Van Horn, Superintendent Preston Wenz, Principal Megan Murrell, Kimber Gebhardt, Megan Knuth, Amy McCloy, Colleen Stormer, Susan Erlenbusch, Roger Schara, Averi Pasma, Nita Crockett, Alan Stempel, Rhonda Voss and Emily Guldborg.

The vice chairman White opened the meeting with the pledge and stating the purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans regarding the governor mandated shutdown of schools for 2 weeks, decision on classified staff pay/hours during the shutdown and any other action relative to the emergency shutdown of schools.

At this time the governor directed school closure for all non-residential public schools in Montana (dated March 15, 2020) through March 27, 2020. All eligible schools will continue to receive all state payments under the school funding formula...during this time, schools will engage in planning to provide free meals to students who need them and all other matters and services that students need in the event of future or ongoing closure.

As of this evening, there has been some correspondence that we may have to make up the hours but nothing has been confirmed.

The staff met at 9:00 am on Monday and has put together work at every grade level (as in the Wildcat News).

There is some discussion on receiving our state transportation payments and how the transportation contract is affected. We have a contract for students that are checking out our computers. At this time we are not providing meals. This may be revisited if there is a need. MHSA has indefinitely canceled extracurricular activities. We may reschedule prom and hold it with area schools. Academic Olympics is scheduled for April 2nd. At this time the state has 6 cases of coronavirus and the closest is Yellowstone County.

Mr. Wenz recommended that we continue to pay the classified staff during these 2 weeks and recommend that at this time, the teachers may come in and prepare materials for students and other duties.

Moved by Phillips, seconded by Beery to have the classified staff report to work this week (week of March 16th) and have the superintendent change the employment conditions affecting an employee's duties and assignment at his discretion. (Policy 5140) (if a staff member chooses they may take vacation and/or sick leave) and their average hours per week will be used. The 2nd week (week of March 30th) classified staff will not have to report to work and their pay will be determined by their average hours. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Other discussion was held on holding school on Fridays and possibly Easter Monday if time needs to be made up. We will wait to send report cards out. The end of the 3rd quarter is March 17th.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.
