

The Board of Trustees of Circle Elementary and High School District No. 1, McCone County, Montana, met in regular session on February 12, 2024 at 6:00pm in the high school library.

Trustees present: Doug Shennum, Cary Phillips, Charity Calderon, Emily Guldborg, Sara Moline, Krista Beery. Also in attendance were Clerk RaChelle Kirkegard, Superintendent Tara Hubing, Principal Mauri Elness, Lindsey Williams, Alan Stempel, Roger Schara, Susan Erlenbusch, and Paul Skyberg.

Chairman Phillips opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Moline to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 regular board meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Moved by Shennum, seconded by Guldborg to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 special board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

The chairman declared the rights to individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the meeting at 6:12pm for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes.

The board meeting came out of closed session at 6:18pm.

Moved by Shennum, seconded by Guldborg to approve the January 16, 2024 closed session minutes. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Guldborg asked how long prior year's class accounts in the high school activity account stay active. Hubing explained that the goal is to use the funds left from prior year classes to purchase a digital marquee for the school when there is enough accumulated and then those accounts will become zeroed out and be inactive. Moved by Beery, seconded by Shennum, to approve the consent agenda of December 30 cash, revenue, and expenditure balances; December 30 Elementary and High School activity accounts; January 9-February 8 claims; payment of ASP salaries/benefits using ESSER III funds; payment of Title 1 salaries/benefits using Title 1 grant money; and an invoice to K-12 Montana Inc. for the purchase of 2 additional cameras in the high school and the remote door intercom systems approved at the January 8, 2024 regular board meeting. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

AD REPORT

Williams gave her AD report. The placings for state speech & drama and state wrestling were reported. Items talked about at the annual meeting were the failed FAT time process for post season track events, fees for MOA volleyball line judges, the approved 8-player football division format, and amended MHSB bylaws. During the Class C Caucus meeting it was discussed to lower the qualifying times for state cross country. Beginning the 2024-25 school year, girls and boys will no longer be allowed to wrestle against each other at practice. Discussion was held on allowing 8th graders to participate in speech & drama and moving state volleyball from Bozeman. Emergency Action plans for athletics must be in place by July 15. At the 3C district meeting the standings for basketball were discussed and the constitution was updated

to include Circle. District and Divisional track will be held in Wolf Point. Upcoming post season dates were reported.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Elness gave her principal report. Teacher observations are almost complete. A few students were absent the day of NAEP testing so they will be tested at a later time. The Montana Principals Conference in Butte was very informational. The new open enrollment law was a big topic. The Class C meeting focused on networking, strategic plans, and recruitment and retention. Safety drills are being done. The discipline log was reported.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Hubing gave her superintendent report. Leaders across the state gathered in a two-day strategic summit on January 30 & 31 to discuss HB332 (statewide public-school health trust). Montana Senator Jon Tester introduced a bill to ban lab-grown meat from being served in school lunches. Students will still be required to take the ACT test despite uncertainty over how the requirement will be funded. The Commissioners of Higher Education is losing federal grant money that originally paid for the ACT test last year. SBAC test results were reported. A graph showing past transfers into the multi-district fund was presented to show that the amount transferred into the fund each year has gradually decreased. Circle and a few surrounding counties have received funding to provide Frontier Wellness, a mental health service free to anyone that would like to use it.

CONSIDERATION OF SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

No comments

POLICIES

Policy 1520-Board Staff Communications-updated to clarify the options staff have to raise concerns in the district, communicate with trustees, and establish a method for collaborative trustee visits to schools. Moved by Shennum, seconded by Moline to adopt the 2nd reading of Policy 1520. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Policy 8132-Activity Trips-updated to reflect the changes in the law from HB676 and SB518. The policy now outlines how parents will provide the opportunity to consent to trips and rooming assignments and details the process for districts to use activity specific transportation methods and lodging. Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Calderon to approve Policy 8132 as presented with the updated wording. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

REVIEW OF ESSER ARP/SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS PLAN

Moved by Shennum, seconded by Moline to approve the Elementary ESSER ARP Plan, the High School ESSER ARP Plan, and the Safe Return to Schools and Continuity of Services Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

LOWER LOCKER ROOM ROOF

A bid from Apex Roofing was presented to repair the roof over the lower locker rooms. Discussion was held. Phillips called Morgan Mason, owner of Apex Roofing, at 7:14 pm to discuss questions the board

had on the bid presented. Morgan is going to gather additional information for the project and update the bid provided. Moved by Moline, seconded by Guldborg to table any decision on the lower locker room roof bid presented. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

BUS APPROACH

A map from Interstate Engineering was presented showing 3 options of how far up the bus approach to take the pavement. Option 1 is to pave all the way up to Bo-Peep, option 2 to pave roughly half way up the bus lane and option 3 to pave just the approach area. Option 3 was chosen. There is going to be a lot of dirt work that needs done for the sidewalk portion of the project and Jordan with Interstate Engineering thought Century would have an idea of the cost of the project by the end of the month. An alternative bus approach/parking lot/sidewalk map made by Guldborg was presented. Guldborg would like to look at other options before committing to the current bus approach/sidewalk plans presented by Interstate Engineering. Guldborg expressed concern on the potential cost of the current project plans and those funds could be utilized towards other needs of the district. Lengthy discussion was held. Main points of the discussion were whether a sidewalk was needed or to widen the bus approach road and eliminate the sidewalk, alternate areas for buses to drop off/pick students up. The Board agreed there needs to be a safe way to get to Bo-Peep but the project could possibly be done for less than what Century and Interstate Engineering are proposing. Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Calderon to table any decisions on the bus approach/sidewalk project until Century can present prices and further information can be gathered on project alternatives. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

MTSBA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The 2024 Annual MTSBA Membership Survey was presented to the board. Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Moline to approve Hubing to complete and submit the survey on behalf of the board. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

LOWER GIRLS VISITING LOCKER ROOMS

Pictures of the damage in the lower girl's locker rooms from frozen pipes were presented. Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Moline to advertise for bids to repair the lower girl's locker room showers where the pipes froze and update the remainder of the locker room. As the building committee chair, Shennum will provide a scope of the project to Kirkegard for the advertisement. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

PURPLE AIRS IN SCHOOL STUDY

A collaboration agreement between the University of Montana, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Circle Schools was presented. The agreement is to allow access for the study "Paired PurpleAirs in Schools Study" to monitor Montana's air pollutant of concern: Particular Matter (PM2.5). Free air sensors would be installed, one in the science classroom and the other outdoors. Discussion was held on the purpose and usefulness of the information that will be gathered. Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Moline to enter into the agreement as presented with the University of Montana and DEQ for the purpose of the "Paired PurpleAirs in Schools Study". Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

ELECTION RESOLUTION/APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION JUDGES

Moved by Shennum, seconded by Calderon to adopt the Elementary resolution calling for a poll election on May 7, 2024. Polls will be open from noon to 8:00pm. The purpose of the election is to elect 2 trustee positions; One (1) expired 3-year term & one (1) unexpired 2-year term) and approval of additional levies to operate and maintain the general fund, technology fund, and building reserve fund. Judges were also appointed to serve at the election. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Moved by Calderon, seconded by Guldborg to adopt the High School resolution calling for a poll election on May 7, 2024. Polls will be open from noon to 8:00pm. The purpose of the election is for approval of additional levies to operate and maintain the general fund and technology fund. Judges were also appointed to serve at the election. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

PRINCIPAL CONTRACT

Hubing recommended to hire Mauri Elness as the K-12 Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. Moved by Phillips, seconded by Moline to offer Mauri Elness a principal contract pending a negotiations committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

Committee meetings scheduled:

Negotiations Committee-February 20, 2024 at 5:15pm.

Calendar Committee-February 21, 2024 at 5:30pm

Technology Committee-February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm

Building Committee-March 12, 2024 at 5:30pm with a walkthrough of the school afterwards.

All committee meetings will be held in the high school library.

Moved by Guldborg, seconded by Beery to schedule the next regular board meeting for Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00pm in the high school library. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.

Moved by Shennum, seconded by Phillips to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm. Motion carried unanimously by the combined board.
