

Regular Board Meeting of December 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitehall School District 4, 47 and 2 of Madison and Jefferson Counties was held on December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitehall Middle School Library.

Board Members:

Michelle LaFontaine, Chair
Sharon Howard
Jeff Briggs
Gina Ossello
Sue Pullman
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan, Superintendent
Patti Drake, District Clerk
Hannah Nieskens, 6-12 Principal
Britt McLean, K-5 Principal

Visitors: Kerry Buterbaugh, Jim Buterbaugh

AGENDA

ITEM:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair, Michelle LaFontaine

Flag Salute

Approval of Agenda

Paul Shaw made a motion to approve the agenda.
Sharon Howard seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Visitors

The visitors were welcomed to the meeting and were told that a public comment period for matters of a general nature would be held later in the meeting.

Public Comment

Jim Buterbaugh thanked Mr. Sullivan for everything he has done for the district and his wife.

Minutes

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 7, 2017.
Sharon Howard seconded the motion
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Correspondence

None

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached)

High School Principal

(See attached) There was a lengthy discussion on the problems that are occurring in the weight room after school hours. There has been some damage to walls and equipment missing. Mr. Sullivan said it is a nice thing for the community but if we continue to have problems we may

have to close the weight room to the community. Ms. Nieskens also reported on her regional principals meeting: a couple of the schools are going to 8 period days, this cuts down on class size, helps keep electives, and eliminates some need for hiring more staff. Manhattan schools have moved to discretionary days for leave and giving bonuses to the teachers that don't use their leave. Belgrade is also having teachers, that are coaches, modify their contracts to cover time missed in the classroom for practices.

Superintendent

(See attached)

OLD BUSINESS

School/Facility Improvements

Mr. Sullivan updated the board on the improvements that have been done or will be done over Christmas break. The lights in the varsity gym have been replaced with LED lights. The new drinking fountain has been installed in the Elementary hall by grades 3-5. On December 27th Core Control will be here to work on the heaters in the Elementary and the wall wraps will be put on the walls by the varsity gym. The new design for the varsity gym was discussed. The board agreed on the design that has the W in the middle. The only change to the design is the trojan head needs to be changed to the logo that is used by the school.

Board Policy 5075

At the request of the board, Mr. Sullivan looked at our policy for accepting resignations. He informed the board that according to Policy 5075 "The Superintendent is authorized to accept the resignation of an individual employee and must report such resignation to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting." Therefore, we do not have to make any changes to our policy it is just a procedural change so no action needs to be taken. Mr. Sullivan then informed the Board that we have one resignation: Kerry Buterbaugh will be retiring at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Budget Cuts

Mr. Sullivan again reiterated to the board that the reason property taxes have increased is because the legislature cut state school funding. He discussed a report that was sent from the Montana Legislative Fiscal Division, that explained the impacts on property taxes: for 2017 the increase will be 14.7%, 2018 – 18.2%, then in the following years the taxes are predicted to go down: 2019 – 16.4%, 2020 – 15.8%, 2021 – 15.3%. When the Legislature meet last month, they made cuts to the transportation budget, our district will be losing \$10,030.13 in the Elementary transportation budget and \$7,502.44 in the High School transportation budget. According to the bills passed in the special session we cannot increase taxes to cover the shortfall, but according to SB 307 that was passed in the regular session we can. We will be attending a budget meeting in February to work this all out.

Substitute Staff

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that we have four applications for substitutes: Janine Burrows, Courtney Raty, Stanley Olson, and Twila Harrington. He recommended the board approve the substitutes as submitted.

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve the substitutes as submitted.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Coaches

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that we have had an increase in numbers for Cheer and Boys Basketball so we would like to add an assistant to these programs. He recommended to the board that we hire Bethany Cooper as Assistant Cheer and Ferguson Gammon as 2nd Assistant Boys Basketball.

Paul Shaw made a motion to hire Bethany Cooper as Assistant Cheer. Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Sharon Howard, Gina Ossello, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Gina Ossello made a motion to hire Ferguson Gammon as 2nd Assistant Boys Basketball.

Paul Shaw seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Sharon Howard, Gina Ossello, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Abstain: Jeff Briggs

Motion carried

Superintendent Evaluation

The board was given the Superintendent Annual Assessment to fill out. The Superintendent's evaluation is required to be completed in January and the Superintendent must be notified in February if his contract is going to be renewed. Michelle asked the board members to fill out the assessment and return them to her between January 3rd – 5th. She will then compile the information; the results will be discussed at the January Board Meeting. The January Board Meeting will be on the 9th instead of the 2nd.

Claims and Accounts

The Claim Approval list was presented to the board.

Claims

Sue Pullman made a motion to approve payment of the high school claims for December as submitted.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve payment of the elementary claims for December as submitted.

Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jeff Briggs seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Jeff Briggs, Gina Ossello, Sharon
Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Signed:

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk