

Regular Board Meeting of March 7, 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 March 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitehall Middle School Library.

Board Members:

Michelle LaFontaine, Chair
Gina Ossello, Vice-Chair
Sharon Howard
Angie Davis
Sue Pullman
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan - Superintendent
Britt McLean – Elementary Principal
Hannah Nieskens 6-12 Principal
Patti Drake – District Clerk

Visitors: Diane Larsen, Kathy Coughlin

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

Angie Davis made a motion to approve the agenda.
Sharon Howard seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, 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

None

Correspondence

None

Minutes

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 regular board meeting.
Sharon Howard seconded the motion
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sharon Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached)

High School Principal

(See attached)

Superintendent

(See attached) We advertised the Assistant High School Track Coach position in house, we have Brennan Hayes interested in the position. He is qualified and good with the kids. Mr. Sullivan informed the

Board that he will begin coaching because the track season starts on Monday, March 13th and we will approve him at the next board meeting. Mr. Sullivan also read two letters one from Montana Tech praising our students and one from Jim Younkin praising our athletes and workers at volleyball and basketball games.

OLD BUSINESS:

Activity Bus

Mr. Sullivan and Michelle LaFontaine meet with representatives from Harlow's. They presented a package for a charter bus at the cost of \$166,995.00. It comes with a 5-year warranty and the possibility of purchasing a 5-year extended warranty. Michelle thought the price quoted at the meeting was \$160,000, John will check on that. The question was asked on the seating it is a 49-passenger bus. The amount of storage was also brought up; John will check on that also. The question was also asked about the reliability of the International motor. Mr. Sullivan also wanted to clear up some information he shared last month. After more research we did find were Harlow's did give us credit on activity trips to make up for the payments that we made on the activity bus. Also, Harlow's made the final balloon payment on the activity bus.

Negotiations Committee

The committee meet with the teacher's representatives, Julie Kieckbusch and Holly Harper today. They exchanged the ideas of each group. The biggest concern will be salaries and insurance. They will meet again on March 22nd.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elementary Principal Evaluation

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has completed Mr. McLean's evaluation. Some of the things he has worked on are: new reading curriculum, MTSS, 90-minute reading block, adjusted staff, challenges with staff. He has stayed positive throughout all the challenges. He has given him some things to work on. Mr. Sullivan recommends the board rehire Mr. McLean.

Gina Ossello made a motion to rehire K-5 Elementary Principal Mr. McLean.

Angie Davis seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sharon Howard

Opposed: None

Motion carried

High School Principal Evaluation

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has completed Ms. Nieskens evaluation. She has implemented MTSS, she holds students and staff accountable, she is big on data and she adjusted the curriculum in Science, English and Math. She is fair and consistent. She has completed her legal classes. He has also given her some things to work on. Mr. Sullivan recommends the board rehire Ms. Nieskens.

Gina Ossello made a motion to rehire 6-12 Principal Ms. Nieskens.

Sue Pullman seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Driver's Education Update

Melissa Robbins will be instructing the Driver's Education program again this year. The class started on Monday, March 6th and will be completed the end of April. She will be having a second class beginning in May and completed the end of June. She currently has 15 students in the first class and will have 15 in the second class.

High School Science Position

We have advertised the position as Broadfield Science and Biology but have not received any applications. If we cannot find someone to fill the position as advertised, we may have to shuffle staff and look at advertising for a K-8 position.

SB307 Resolution

The board needs to consider and adopt the resolution estimating changes in revenues/mills from tuition, adult education, building reserve, transportation and bus depreciation levies for school fiscal year 2017-18. This is a non-voted levy but we are required to inform our taxpayers of the possibility of initiating a levy to supplement our building reserve levy. There is a formula that will be used to calculate the amount of the levy, we cannot mill more than 10 mills. We need to notify the taxpayers by April 15th.

Sue Pullman made a motion to notify the taxpayers if this bill passes. Sharon Howard seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried

2017-18 School Calendar

Mr. Sullivan presented to the board the school calendar that was voted on by the staff. There was some discussion on the days off that were on the calendar.

Sharon Howard made a motion to approve the 2017-18 School Calendar.

Angie Davis seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried

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 March as submitted.

Paul Shaw seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Angie Davis made a motion to approve payment of the elementary claims for March as submitted.

Gina Ossello seconded the motion.

In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Sharon Howard

Abstain: Angie Davis

Opposed: None
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Gina Ossello made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Paul Shaw seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sharon
Howard, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Signed:

ATTEST:

Chairman

Clerk