

Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 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 January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Whitehall Middle School Library.

Board Members:

Michelle LaFontaine
Gina Ossello-Vice-Chair
Angela Davis
Sue Pullman
Paul Shaw

Administrators:

John T. Sullivan - Superintendent
Britt McLean – Elementary Principal
Patti Drake, District Clerk

Visitors: Jack Smith

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.
Gina Ossello seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, 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

Sue Pullman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 board meeting.
Paul Shaw seconded the motion
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal

(See attached)

High School Principal

(See attached) John presented Ms. Nieskens report as she was unable to attend the meeting. The board agreed to use the Missoula County Public Schools protocol for the use of EpiPens.

Superintendent

(See attached) There was some discussion on contracting with Harlow's for the second bus, what type of bus and the cost. John also

explained that the process of scheduling is controlled by a schedule that is put out by MHSA. Mr. Sullivan added a report about the local Headstart program. There is a rumor that they may lose their funding. There will be a Town Hall meeting to discuss the program. There are currently 11 students in Headstart but only 6 qualify.

OLD BUSINESS:

MHSA Annual Meeting Review

Mr. Sullivan and Dan Lacey will be attending the MHSA Annual Meeting in Great Falls on Sunday, January 15th and Monday, January 16th. There are 4 proposals that will be discussed, board term lengths, 8th grade participation, transfer rule and jewelry rule. There are schools proposing to move up 8th graders to high school competition if the schools do not have the numbers. This has been proposed before and usually does not pass. One school wants the students to be able to wear jewelry during competition. Currently a student has to wait 90 days to play varsity, the proposal is to change the restriction to hours, because some school's schedules are based on the number of hours in attendance instead of days. There are currently term limits on a board seat and they would like to do away with term limits and have the board seat never expire. There was some discussion on the 8th graders moving up proposal.

Policy Updates

This is a second reading on the policies concerning Head Lice, Crowd Funding and Multi-District Fund. There board agreed that these policies did not need any changes.

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve the policies as submitted. Paul Shaw seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFountaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw.
Opposed: None
Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS:

Adult Education Courses & Budget

We currently have 3 Adult Education Classes offered, Basic Welding, Basic Carpentry and Classic Literature. The Basic Welding class is currently being held, the Basic Carpentry class will begin after the welding class and Literature class currently does not have enough enrolled. There is currently \$4,000 in the budget. If community wants this program to continue we will have to ask the community to fund it.

Information Systems – Infinite Campus

Mr. Sullivan supplied the board with handouts concerning the Infinite Campus program. Our current program, Schoolmaster, is becoming obsolete, there are only 8 districts in Montana using it. OPI is encouraging districts to start using Infinite Campus because the state reporting program, AIM's, is tied into Infinite Campus. We currently use 3 programs, Schoolmaster, School Messenger and Meal Plan, if we went to Infinite Campus we would only have one program. The initial cost would be around \$12,000 and then the annual renewal is comparable to the three programs that we currently use.

Substitute Teacher

Barrett McQuesten has put in an application to become a Substitute Teacher.

Angie Davis made a motion to add Barrett McQuesten to the Substitute Teacher List.
Sue Pullman seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Facility Use Agreement Review

Mr. Sullivan presented the board with a copy of the Facility Use Agreement. He asked the board if there were any changes. The board agreed that the agreement looked good.

Sue Pullman made a motion to accept the Facility Use Agreement as is. Gina Ossello seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Negotiations

Mr. Sullivan informed the board that he has received a letter from the Whitehall Federation of Teachers Union asking to open up negotiations. The current agreement was for 2 years and will end at the end of this school year. Mr. Sullivan believes it is a good idea to negotiate for 2 years and to coincide with the legislature. The committee is John Sullivan, Sue Pullman, James Reiff and Gina Ossello. Mr. Sullivan advised the board to start negotiations on language in February and March and then wait until the legislature ends to negotiate the financial part of the contract. Mr. Sullivan will send a letter to the Union to start the process of negotiations.

Claims and Accounts

The Claim Approval list was presented to the board.

Claims

Paul Shaw made a motion to approve payment of the high school claims for January as submitted.
Angie Davis seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried

Gina Ossello made a motion to approve payment of the elementary claims for January as submitted.
Angie Davis seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis
Opposed: None
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Gina Ossello seconded the motion.
In Favor: Michelle LaFontaine, Gina Ossello, Angie Davis, Sue Pullman, Paul Shaw
Opposed: None
Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk