

Regular Meeting

Cascade School District 3B

Board of Trustees

March 16, 2021 - 6:00 pm

Board Members Present

High School Board

Val Fowler - Chair

Iain McGregor - Vice Chair

John Rumney

Ruth Mortag

Chris Wilson

Rick Cummings (Zoom)

Elementary Board

Iain McGregor - Vice Chair

John Rumney

Ruth Mortag

Chris Wilson

Rick Cummings (Zoom)

Others Present: Karsen Drury - District Clerk, Rick Miller - Superintendent, Michelle Price, Nichole Pieper, Sonja Mazaira, Pam Marquis, Tina Mann, Sarah Pederson, Becca Cooper, Heather Wilson, Tami Snyder, Wendy H, Lindsay Orem, Cassidy Corrigan, Serena, Pam Moultray, Katy Marquis, Farrah McGregor

Val Fowler - Board Chair, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:06 pm. The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Fowler asked for public comment on non-agenda items.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- A. Pam Marquis made public comment in regards to the 4 day school week.

Informational

- A. Correspondence

Staff Reports

- A. Michelle Price, EL Principal
 - a. SBAC Score data - Math, ELA
 - b. Behavior Data - Major & Minor Referrals
- B. Nichole Pieper, JH/HS Principal
 - a. Great Schools Rating
 - b. 8 year ACT Data
 - c. JH/HS Behavior Data
 - d. 2022 Proposed Schedule Draft
- C. Sonja Mazaira, AD
 - a. FFA Competition
 - b. Hosting FFA district leadership program
 - c. FFA State competition in Billings

- d. Spring sports have started
 - e. JH & HS Athlete GPA data
- D. Rick Miller, Superintendent
 - a. Student Absences
 - b. COVID
 - c. School Walk-In Clinic
- E. Karsen Drury, Business Manager
 - a. General fund budgets

Board Report

- A. Board Training Session
 - a. March 4th - Board Training Session with MTSBA
- B. Finance Committee Meeting
 - a. March 11th - SB307 Resolution/Budget Prelim Discussion
- C. Transportation Committee Report
 - a. March 12th - Activity Bus Purchase, Bus Barn
- D. Board Evaluation
- E. Board Training Hours

Old Business

- A. Consideration of Recommendation for Purchase of Replacement Activity Bus

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by Iain McGregor to move from the table the motion to approve the recommendation to purchase the Coachliner for the replacement activity bus.

Board Discussion:

Rick Cummings prefers Bluebird over Coachliner due to cost savings. Chris Wilson would like to buy the coachliner this year and a cheaper bluebird out of the general fund for two activity buses. Chris prefers the Coachliner over the Bluebird due to the safety standards, fuel economy and higher end features. Iain McGregor prefers the Coachliner over the Bluebird due to the resale value, maintenance time and cost savings, size and storage and safety standards. Also agrees with the committee about adding a second activity bus to the fleet. John Rumney inquired that the budget would allow for the Coachliner. Karsen Drury confirmed. Ruth Mortag inquired about the resale of the current MCI. She asked if the bus barn issue had been resolved. It was confirmed that it had and would continue to be in the works with the committee.

Public Comment:

Tina Mann made public comment in regards to the safety of the bus.

Iain McGregor, Chris Wilson, John Rumney, Val Fowler and Ruth Mortag voted in favor of the motion, Rick Cummings opposed.

Motion passed.
- B. Consideration of Recommendation for Superintendent Salary 2021-2022

Ruth Mortag moved, seconded by Rick Cummings to move from the table the motion to approve

a 4% salary increase for Mr. Miller for the 2021-2022 school year. Iain McGregor said the main reason he wants to grant the raise is due to the work Mr. Miller put in to ensure the school stayed open the entire year during COVID. Ruth Mortag said that Mr. Miller is dedicated to the betterment of the school. Commends him on the work he and the staff put in during COVID and holding students accountable. Supports motion and salary increase. John Rumney said Mr. Miller has shown that he has earned the raise and deserves it - he goes above and beyond especially during COVID. Chris Wilson said he supports the motion not due to performance, but thought it admirable to give the board and community the opportunity to voice concerns after the previous board meeting by tabling the motion. Mr. Miller previously had split a raise with the admin and the board gives teachers a 4% each year not based performance. Rick Cummings is in support of the motion based on the fact that Mr. Miller did not take a salary increase in previous contracts. Val Fowler supports the motion. Teachers get 4% automatically. Glad to keep precedence.

Public Comment:

Lindsay Orem made public comment in opposition to the motion.

Passed unanimously.

- C. Consideration of updates to District Emergency Policies 1900-1912 in response to and compliance with changes to state and local health and emergency directives.

John Rumney moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to approve the updates to Emergency Policies 1905.

Mr. Miller conducted a survey to the staff, parents and students on thoughts and feelings of lifting the mask mandate and how to move forward with COVID precautions. The results were split. Rick Cummings thinks the district should follow with what the County health department determines. Chris Wilson agrees with following what the county health department determines, but err on freedoms of what people feel comfortable with. John Rumney thinks that we should stay with a mask mandate. He stated that it was great to keep schools open all year and masks played a vital role in doing so. He believes we should keep the mask mandate in place for the last 41 days. Iain McGregor is in favor of making it optional with the caveat of abiding by county and state mandates and following the county health department with their determination. If the state and county lit the mandate, students will push back and teachers and administration will have to deal with repercussions. John Rumney stated the board is not always here to make things easier but instead here to make decisions that are best for the district, which is keeping kids in school and masks have been effective. Chris Wilson mentioned that kids have been in contact during athletics and not wearing masks didn't seem to be a problem. The board discussed the authority of the county health department and the pediatrics. Ruth Mortag asked how many kids wear masks properly. Believes in science behind masks, but will support the option of wearing them or not. Inquired about staff being comfortable to report to work if the mask mandate is lifted. Val Fowler stated that the input from stakeholders was 50/50. She inquired about vaccinations for teachers. She stated that the students have events such as prom and graduation coming up and we don't want to risk them getting canceled due to COVID cases. She is also worried about staffing repercussions if the mandate is lifted. Rick Miller stated that illnesses will go up if masks are removed. It is hard to find substitute teachers and we will have to close school due to staffing issues as opposed to

illness.

Chris Wilson moved to approve the emergency 1905 policy to be in line with Cascade County Health Department mandates. Iain McGregor seconded.

Public Comment:

Katy Marquis made public comment in favor of optional masks.

Ruth Mortag moved to update policy 1905 for physical distancing to follow the directive of Cascade County Health Department. Rick Cummings seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Recess 8:44 - 8:51

New Business

A. Resolution Under SB307, District 3

Ruth Mortag moved, seconded by John Rumney to approve the resolution under Senate Bill 307 for District 3.

Passed unanimously.

B. Resolution Calling for Election, District B

John Rumney moved, seconded by Iain McGregor to approve the resolution under Senate Bill 307 for District B.

Passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of Recommendation for Spring Coaches

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by Iain McGregor to approve the recommendation to hire the coaches as listed for the spring 2021 sports season.

Passed unanimously.

D. Policy Updates and Revisions - Policy 1420 (R)

John Rumney moved, seconded by Rick Cummings to approve and adopt the revisions and updates to Policy 1420

Passed unanimously.

E. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, February 16, 2021
- b. Business Claims
- c. Student Activity Account
- d. Individual Transportation Contracts
- e. Student Attendance Agreements
- f. Sub List

Rick Cummings moved, seconded by Iain McGregor to approve the consent agenda.

Passed unanimously.

Board Meeting Evaluation (I)

- A. Complete evaluation and turn into Mr. Miller.

Announcements (I)

- A. Regular School Board Meeting, April 20, 2021
- B. MTSBA/MASBO Finance & Budget Virtual Symposium

Adjournment (A)

At 9:12 pm Iain McGregor moved, seconded by Chris Wilson to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Val Fowler, Board Chair

ATTEST: Karsen Drury, District Clerk

Date Signed _____

For additional details on items presented in the minutes of the meeting, please see coinciding board agenda found on Cascade Public Schools' webpage: www.cascade.k12.mt.us/District/1141-Board-Agendas-and-Packet.html