

Canyon Creek School District #4
Yellowstone County, Billings, MT
6:30 p.m. - Special Meeting – Library

Call To Order

August 10, 2020

Chair Amy Sironi called the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:31 p.m. by leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following trustees and officers were present: Amy Sironi, Chair, Amy Gibbons, Vice-Chair, Amanda Agyeman-Budu, Trustee, John Soucy, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present via Zoom: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Katie Kading, Teacher, Ali Helgeson, Teacher, Christina Stormer, Teacher, Jennifer Hammonds, Teacher, Leslie Raivo, Matt & Sam Huck, Sarah Morton, Ed Taylor, Erin Thormahlen, Kristi Wanty, Alison Peterson, Jay & Lacey Thompson, Michelle Kemoli, Rainya Taylor and Krystal Muir

Public Comment

None submitted.

Consent Agenda

Amy G. made a motion to accept the consent agenda with the noted additions, New Business items A - D. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- A. J & V Restaurant Supply Quote – Discussion was held. Equipment purchase is proposed to meet the needs of feeding the students under the COVID-19 restrictions and the CCSD re-opening plan.
Amanda made a motion to accept the J&V quote for purchase of kitchen supplies as proposed. Amy G. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Music – Discussion was held and information was shared in relation to the risk of spreading viruses through instruments. Superintendent Lipp got a quote for the materials recommended to help prevent transmission. Superintendent Lipp also noted that the District is in need of a piano. He is proposing the purchase of a piano for \$6k-10k purchase price, utilizing the Coronavirus Relief Funds. Superintendent Lipp also noted that choir is the number one spread versus band instruments, specific to music instruction. He recommended the purchase of face shields to mitigate the risk.

- C. MHSA – Discussion was held and information was shared. Superintendent Lipp noted that the league has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, August 11th to discuss the path forward. Superintendent Lipp reviewed the MHSA document which gives requirements and considerations. Superintendent Lipp asked for feedback from Trustees and their thoughts on participation and if approved, would audience participation be approved?

Amy G. noted that she did not feel there was any way to allow audiences in the gym and adhere to social distancing requirements. Amy S. and Amy G. noted that a live-stream would be the second best option. John noted that having sports is important and feels we should have seasons. He also noted that it would be very difficult to police audience participation. Amanda inquired what would happen if other schools decided not to allow external audience participation. That will be discussed tomorrow in addition to skill-set opportunity if the league does not decide to hold seasons. Superintendent Lipp will look into live-stream options and get a quote back to the Trustees. Amanda was in favor of practice versus not having anything, if seasons were cut.

The Board opened the topic to feedback from meeting participants. It was noted that sports are important to be held. It was noted that the preference would be to have at least one parent allowed to attend the games.

Superintendent Lipp will propose a universal expectation from all districts participating in the league. Another audience comment was that on a bigger scale the norm is becoming sports without fans, so the transition may not be that big of a deal.

- D. Physicians Letter to District 2 - Recommendations for returning to school / staying home when ill – Discussion was held and information was shared. If families choose not to seek healthcare guidance for their student, then those individuals should stay home until ALL the following criteria have been met:

- It has been 10 days since the onset of symptoms
- The individual has had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Symptoms of illness are improving

The noted recommendations may change based on the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Amy S. asked that Superintendent Lipp bring back the RiverStone recommendations as well as the current CDC guidelines for discussion at the Regular meeting next Monday. They will compare the guidelines provided in the shared physician's letter and the recommendations from the other entities.

There was an audience comment requesting that a form be available for completion to share student on-going illnesses such as allergies. Superintendent Lipp noted that a form does exist and will be sent out in the newsletter later this week.

- E. 1900 Policy Series – COVID-19 Emergency Measures – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp shared that he strongly feels the December 31, 2020 deadline is required and if needed the policies can be reviewed and extended at that time.

1903 – School District Meetings, Gatherings, Events and Visitors - John noted that he felt there should not be restrictions placed on age or health conditions for participants/visitors of the school facilities and participating events. He felt a strict statement like that is discriminatory. It was discussed that the language should be revised to remove “must not attend School District”. John and Amy S. noted that they did not like the wording and felt that they could revise the wording. It was noted that the paragraph, “Vulnerable individuals...” under School District Events, Policy 1903 should be considered for complete removal. Amy G. noted that she felt part of the statement should be included in the policy. Superintendent Lipp has revised the statement per the Trustees

recommendations and will bring the revised policy back to the board for approval at the Regular meeting, August 17th.

Facilities Use Agreement – Trustees discussion was to evaluate the necessity of the facilities use on a case-by-case basis via procedural language and leave the policy in place as written.

1905 – Student, Staff and Community Health and Safety – no revisions from previously adopted policy.

“Vulnerable Individuals” paragraph will be revised to match the revision to the same language in Policy 1903.

1906 – Student Instruction Resources and Best Practices – revised to include satisfying aggregate hour requirements and proficiency-based ANB calculation for specific situations.

1907 – School District Declaration of Emergency – board of trustees is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the community.

1909 – Human Resources and Personnel – no revisions from previously adopted policy.

1910 – Personnel Use of Leave– no revisions from previously adopted policy.

1910F1 – Emergency Paid Sick Leave

1910F2 – Emergency FMLA

1911 – School District Budget Adoption, Amendment and Audit– no revisions from previously adopted policy.

1912 – School District Elections Rescheduled Due to Emergency– no revisions from previously adopted policy.

Amanda moved to table the 1900 Policy Series - COVID-19 Emergency Measures until the next Regular board meeting, scheduled for August 17, 2020, when the discussed revisions can be completed and approved. Amy G. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Q&A Reopening Plan – Superintendent Lipp presented some questions and answers on specific items of the reopening plan, i.e. masks, signage, lanyards for masks, sports – football co-op with Elysian. More details will be shared following the sports meeting scheduled for August, 11th.

- Cohorts have been established for K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Visitors and volunteers will be restricted from joining at lunch and/or birthday parties, etc. The school architectural design allows the district to split the grades per cohorts with minimal accommodations/concerns. The playground is also sectioned off into zones that will be assigned to a cohort for certain recess times and on a rotating schedule.
- Cleaning schedules have been made in detail, check lists for required cleaning have been developed and will be kept for District and Health records.
- Instructional requirements include that all teachers have a Google Classroom platform in place and used consistently. This will assist with the transition to distance learning if students are out of the classroom due to quarantine.
- Student check-in and out for appointments etc. during the day is asked to be limited if not eliminated. This will prevent additional exposures/contaminations throughout the day.
- The cohort map was shared with detail for each cohort pick-up and drop-off location. Each cohort has a separate entrance/exit point and is color-coded with cones to match the map.

If parents have multiple children in multiple cohorts, it will be required that each student be dropped off or picked up in their specific cohort location.

- Busing schedules will be finalized with length of transport being the focus point. 6-8 grades will be dropped off first and picked up last to accommodate families with older and younger siblings.
- If a student/staff get diagnosed with a positive case, HIPAA & FERPA regulations will be adhered to. There will be communications out with very limited details, protecting the privacy rights of students and staff. The District is requiring that increased emergency contacts be listed for each student, so that in the case a student does appear to have COVID-19 symptoms, they absolutely will be picked up and removed from the school facility.
- Online learning is not available, as it is not an effective way to learn, unless that learning platform is mandated. If parents are not comfortable with their students attending school in the building because they do not feel safe, there is the option to homeschool or transfer to another district that offers the online learning platform.
- There will be no sharing of school supplies. Each student will have their own. Snacks allowed to be brought to school must be individually packaged. Each student will be asked to bring a water bottle as the spouts have been turned off at the water fountains. The water bottles will be sent home each week for cleaning at home.
- Field trips will be a case-by-case consideration pending the current COVID-19 status.
- There was an audience inquiry to how medications would be distributed throughout the cohorts. There is a plan in place and Superintendent Lipp will follow-up and get the plan finalized for public distribution.
- There was an inquiry on if the band instruments will still be allowed to be left in the music room. Yes, they will be.
- There was a question on if the teachers have an expedited COVID-19 testing opportunity like other front-line workers. There was no clear answer shared.
- It was asked how Superintendent Lipp felt the proficiency of the student learning from last spring's distance learning stands. He shared that there will be district-wide testing occurring early in the fall so that we have a status of where the students stand.
- Kindergarten Roundup did not occur, so for the first two weeks of school, testing will occur and students will be placed as deemed appropriate.
- There was positive comments and thanks given for the efforts the district has put forth and the communication that has taken place to date in reference to the reopening plan. There will be a newsletter being sent out this week via email, webpage and mailed with additional details.

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Amanda moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk