

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

Call To Order

February 11, 2021

Chair Amy Sironi called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, via Zoom, to order at 6:40 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. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present. Trustee, John Soucy was absent.

Additional guests present: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, Katie Kading, Teacher and Ali Helgeson, Teacher.

Public Comment

None submitted.

Consent Agenda

Amanda Agyeman-Budu moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

1. RiverStone Health School Nurse Report - Superintendent Lipp shared Nurse Rock's monthly report.
2. Canyon Creek Education Association – Letter of Intent to Negotiate. The board recognized receipt of the letter and discussed in detail. The response letter will be delivered to the Union.

Committee Report

1. Personnel Negotiations Committee – Response to CCEA Intent to Negotiate. The board recognized receipt of the letter and discussed in detail. Amanda Agyeman-Budu reported out on behalf of the committee. The committee reviewed the District's estimated budget for FY22 and drafted a response to the CCEA. A letter of response will be delivered to the Union by Ms. Stovall.
Amy Gibbons made a motion to approve the letter responding to the CCEA letter of intent to negotiate as presented. Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent's Report–
 1. Maintenance
 - Snow Removal – Superintendent Lipp shared that Mr. Ross attempted the property snow removal with the newly purchased tractor. Per that trial run, the level of snow was more than the tractor could handle. There have been internal discussions on whether to utilize a snow removal company to take care of the snow on the parking lots. We will continue to evaluate the most cost effective route.
 - Gym Boiler – Superintendent Lipp shared that the gym boiler has been leaking. The leaking has since stopped but the leak is an indicator of an issue to come. There is discussion with the boiler company on estimated costs to replace the system. This may need addressed this summer.
 - Elementary Furnace System – Superintendent Lipp shared that we have sought an estimate to replace the furnaces in the elementary wing, which are a total of nine independent furnaces. The ESSER II funds allow for expenditures for improvements or replacements of HVAC systems. The goal is to replace the systems with high efficiency units.
 - Gym Doors – Superintendent Lipp shared that the two external gym doors are needing replaced. They are safe to open but the frames have started to fail over the years and the hinges are bending off of the frames. Therefore, the doors are not closing properly. We are working on getting quotes for replacement.
 - Annex Heating Units – Superintendent Lipp shared that the independent heating/cooling wall units (two per classroom) in the annex classrooms are needing updated and the last one in storage was utilized as a replacement for a failed unit. He has authorized purchase of two units to have on hand for replacements. The units are approximately \$1,200 per unit.
 2. PIR Day – Data Analysis of our Winter MAP scores – Superintendent Lipp shared that during the upcoming PIR day, February 22nd, time will be spent analyzing the data with staff members to evaluate areas that need improvement and a comparison of data to where students are currently at, compared to the beginning of the school year.
 3. Student News
 - Sports - Superintendent Lipp shared that we just recently transitioned from boys' basketball (BBB) season to girls' volleyball (GVB) season. The BBB team finished third on the season and showed a lot of growth. The GVB season is starting off on a positive, high-energy note and we are excited!
 - Testing – Superintendent Lipp noted that we just finished our local MAP testing. We are watching closely to see if we will have our SBAC testing. There are preliminary discussions that SBAC testing may be waived this year due to Covid. We are awaiting a response from the Office of Public Instruction. As is, testing is set to be completed mid-March. There is a lot of planning that goes into completing the tests from scheduling to accommodations.

- SOS – Superintendent Lipp shared SOS is Signs of Suicide and is a program that we adopted. There has been an increase in awareness of mental health issues this school year. The District counselor, Mrs. Tennant is offering online training that parents are offered to participate in. This program helps to identify signs of suicide, developing awareness and helps prepare kids to recognize signs in themselves and their friends.
- Extreme Weather School Closure – Superintendent Lipp has received some negative feedback on the school closure. There were serious discussions that took place prior to making that decision. There was collaboration between the District and First Student, the District busing service. One of the biggest factors in making the decision to close was the transportation uncertainty and risk to exposure.
- Dean of Student’s Report –
 1. Conduct Reports – The reports have not been entered into the SWIS system due to Mrs. Morales’ workload shifting to SPED. Most reports are disrespect, inappropriate language and bullying. Superintendent Lipp has been handling the majority of disciplinary issues.
 2. SPED – Mrs. Morales reported that the SPED department is very busy. Most efforts are being spent on lesson planning, IEP’s, and meetings.
 3. CBEE SPED Co-Op Kindergarten Readiness Program – Mrs. Morales reported that there are nine students on the radar. These students will be turning three between now and June. Currently we are a ways out from qualifying students and the impact of needing additional staffing. There is a monthly meeting held between the CBEE Administration and Ms. Stovall to review expenditures and budget status and address any concerns.

Old Business

- A. SPED Certified Teacher position recruitment status update was given. No current certified applicants. Superintendent Lipp shared that most likely we will not get this position filled.
- B. Open Board Trustee Position recruitment status update was given. No new known individuals of interest. Superintendent Lipp shared that Mr. Kinnett is not interested in joining the board at this time.

New Business

- A. Finance Committee appointments – Discussion was held and the need to form a finance committee was agreed upon. There is a need for engagement in current financial impacts from the legislative session and the impacts to our upcoming budget. Amy Sironi and Amy Gibbons noted that they would not be available for daytime meetings. Amy Sironi appointed Amy Gibbons and Amy Sironi as Finance Committee members.
- C. Out of District Attendance Agreements – Discussion was held. Currently there are seventy-six out of district student attendance agreements year to date. The additional three would make our annual total 79 students.
Amy Gibbons moved to accept the Out of District Attendance Agreements for FY21 as presented.

Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Outside User Agreement – Canyon Creek Taskforce. Discussion was held. It was noted that Amy Sironi asked to sit out due to the conflict of interest as she is the lead of the Canyon Creek Taskforce. However, due to the need of three votes to make a quorum, Amy Sironi had to participate in the action item. Superintendent Lipp recommended that the facility be opened up for use by the Taskforce. Amy Sironi shared that this is a one-time request to use the facility for one meeting.

Amanda Agyeman-Budu moved to reassign the approval of Outside User Agreements back to Superintendent Lipp. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Lipp shared that he felt it is in the best interest of the District to allow the Canyon Creek Taskforce to use the facility. It's a great opportunity for Superintendent Lipp and the trustees to reach additional community members and stay aware of what is happening within the community.

- C. Covid / School Health Report – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp shared that as of today, Governor Gianforte announced that he will be lifting the mask mandate, effective Friday, February 12th. MTSBA has shared that schools will be included as one of the protected entities to avoid being held liable for removing a mask mandate in schools. This is an evolving topic and due to the announcement tomorrow, there may be a need to reconvene and discuss further. As of Tuesday of this week, some calls have been received that parents of enrolled students are catching Covid. There is currently a handful of students who are quarantined due to their parents testing positive. There are discussions that there may be a spike in cases coming.

There has been some recent crime activity. On Monday morning, Mr. Ross observed suspicious activity on the Danford Road side of the school. He felt there was maybe intention to do something with his pickup, which is parked on that side of the school. It was reported to the police.

In addition, there was an alarm go off at the school late last Saturday. It was looked into by both Mr. Ross and the police. They checked the building in its entirety and found nothing.

Due to the extreme weather, there has been some small adjustments to the school cohorts to prevent the students from being outside too long during classroom transitions. We have shortened their outside exposure time in their transitions to classrooms.

- D. Enrollment / ANB Update – Ms. Stovall presented the spring enrollment count for the school district. The total enrollment for spring count was 252 students K-8. Last year's fall enrollment count was 246 and spring enrollment was 257. The current year ANB versus the 3-year average ANB was shared and it has been confirmed that the FY22 budget will be based off of the current year ANB.
- D. CBEE SPED Co-Op Kindergarten Readiness Status – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp shared that during the current legislative session there was a bill to provide ANB funding for 3 and 4 year olds. That bill has been tabled and we do not anticipate it being brought back up.
- E. Legislative Update – Superintendent Lipp gave a summary of updates on the status of the Legislative session and bills that are being watched closely due to their potential impact on

school funding. HB 143 is a bill of most concern to the District. This is an increase of base salary of non-tenured teachers, being supported by an additional Quality Educator payment. The bill is a positive initial step but it does not come without hurdles to the District. The negotiations with the union will play a major role in being able to implement HB 143 for the District, if the bill passes.

Amanda Agyeman-Budu lost connectivity to the Zoom meeting at 7:40 and was able to reconnect at 7:51.

- F. Transformational Learning Grant – The grant was awarded to the District. It gives us the availability to permissively levy against the Flexibility Fund, matching awarded funds. Currently the funds have been exhausted but we are on the list to receive funds somewhere between FY22 and FY23.

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – March 11th

- A. Approve FY22 School Calendar
- B. Business Manager Evaluation Instructions
- C. Audit review and presentation to trustees
- D. Election – Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy Due March 25th
- E. Election – Notice of Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levies Due March 31st
- F. Covid / School Health Report
- G. Policy 1900 Series – Governor dissolving mask directive effective February 12
- H. Levy Engagement from the Community

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Amy Gibbons moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Amanda Agyeman-Budu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk