

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

Call To Order

February 10, 2022

Chair, Amy Sironi, called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 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, Kelly Hickey, Trustee, and Carl Siroky, Trustee. Brent Lipp, Superintendent and Seara Stovall, Business Manager/District Clerk were also present.

Additional guests present: Dani Roberts, Administrative Assistant, Earl Ross, Facilities Manager, Rachel Swoboda, Teacher, Christina Stormer, Teacher, Candi Allen, Erika Wilson, Melissa Kamp, and Joey Ogburn.

Absent: Haley Morales, Dean of Students, was out of State at PowerSchool University training.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Correspondence item added – Letter from Canyon Creek Education Association

Public Comment

Candi Allen – Subbing – She noted that she has four children in school and this is their fourth year in attendance at Canyon Creek. She has noted her concern of teachers having to cover other classes in addition to their own and having to utilize their prep periods to substitute. She shared that she had applied as a substitute and was declined hire by Superintendent Lipp via letter. There was communication back and forth but no resolution to inquiries on why she was declined hire as a substitute.

Joey Ogburn – Mask & Substitute Teachers – He shared that he is concerned about the lack of substitutes and the quality of those that are working here. He shared he personally has had masking concerns and difficulties with staff and his child in reference to staff bullying his child. He also noted the importance and need for recess. He feels like the current time allotted, or lack of time available for recess, is detrimental to the children. He noted that recess is a time to socialize and have some freedoms.

He requested that masking be a parental choice and reminded the board again of the previous request to survey the parents and staff.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Stovall noted a revision to the minutes contained within the distributed packet. There is an update to the week reviewed date range under Action Item D – Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety- Review. It should be 1-9-22 – 1-15-22.

Amy Gibbons moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Carl Siroky seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

1. Draft Policy Review – Series 1000 - 4000 Update (*Information*)
1000 and 2000 review completed and half of 3000 series has been reviewed.
2. Draft Policy Review – Series 5000 - 9000 Update (*Information*)
5000 series review has been completed. There will be some follow-up questions for MTSBA.

Correspondence

1. Canyon Creek Education Association (CCEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) –
Superintendent Lipp shared the letter from the CCEA requesting to meet in reference to the requested MOU.

Administrative Report

- Superintendent's Report –
 1. Testing – Superintendent Lipp shared that NWEA testing has been close to completion. There are six remaining students to follow-up with for completion which will occur next week.
 2. Read Win Race (May) – Superintendent Lipp shared that Read Win Race, after being cancelled due to Covid, is scheduled again for the month of May. This is a non-profit organization that the district has participated in previously. The district will participate in this. There is a banquet scheduled in support of the event and the district has a table purchased.
 3. DEAR / Doors / Books / Special Lunch – Superintendent Lipp noted that February is, “I Love to Read” month. The school is participating in DEAR – Drop Everything and Read, each day for thirty minutes. There is participation from staff in decorating their doors as their favorite book. The PTO is involved in providing books for the event. The kitchen staff serves a special lunch to support the event.
 4. MCT / Volleyball - Girls Volleyball will begin the week of January 27th, with enough participants for four teams.
Missoula Children's Theater presented two performances of Johnny Appleseed. There was a great turnout! Superintendent Lipp thanked the PTO for putting on the event.
 5. No Kid Hungry Grant – Superintendent Lipp shared that he applied for the grant with a potential award maximum amount of \$5000.00. The intention of this potential funding is to purchase round cafeteria tables.
 6. Food Service Supply Shortage Grant – Superintendent Lipp shared that he has been approved for this remitted grant. There is supply chain challenges and shortages of food products. Mrs. Lose wants to utilize this funding for.
 7. New Staff – Superintendent Lipp shared that there will be three hires completed during the New Business section of the agenda. Superintendent Lipp thanked Ms. Stovall for all

of her efforts. He additionally welcomed Dani Roberts, Kirsten Weatherford, and Keith Michael to their new positions.

8. Safety Inspection – There was an unscheduled OSHA safety inspection that resulted in a very positive outcome and feedback. They were very complementary on the state of the building and the organization by Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross was able to provide all requested documentation.
9. Curriculum (Science) – Superintendent Lipp shared that he has started the vetting process for a new Science curriculum. He has sent samples to the teachers for their input. The curriculum committee has met and given feedback on the curriculum reviewed to date.
10. Tik Tok – Superintendent Lipp shared his concerns over the recent Tik Tok trends challenging students to, “slap a teacher” and additional negative challenges. There has been significant property damage to other surrounding schools bathrooms in relation to this “challenge”.
Carl shared that he feels the district should take proactive action to share the consequences with both the students and parents if there is any sort of participation in these promoted challenges.
11. Building Bridges – Superintendent Lipp shared that he recommends sending the certified staff to the Building Bridges professional development training again this summer. It will be offered again for this summer and has communicated to the certified staff the opportunities for training.
12. Levy – Superintendent Lipp noted that a decision will need to be made and action taken in the near future, if the Trustees support running a General Fund levy for the May election. Superintendent Lipp noted that a potential Special Board Meeting may need to be held to make the decision.

New Business

- A. Agenda Document Revisions – Superintendent Lipp shared that there was a request from the Trustees to revise the Board of Trustees meeting agenda to include the following:
 - a. REACH Acronym – Respect, Empower, Achieve, Cooperate, Help. Discussion was held.
 - b. Notice Regarding Public Comment – 1420F – Superintendent Lipp noted the request to add the recently reviewed MTSBA document 1420F to the beginning of the agenda. This document reflects on the appropriate public comment procedure.

Superintendent Lipp shared that he will bring to the next board meeting an example of a revision to the agenda to include the above

- B. Enrollment / ANB Update – Ms. Stovall presented the Spring Student Count for ANB Summary by District, February 7, 2022 Enrollment. It was noted the FY2022 – 2023 will be based off of the current year ANB versus the 3-Year Average ANB.
Superintendent Lipp shared that there is potential growth in the district with developing sub-divisions. Carl Siroky inquired about requesting a copy of the strategic plan that was last completed.

C. New Hire –

- a. Dani Roberts – Business Manager / District Clerk – Discussion was held. The trustees noted their excitement for the hire and thanked Dani for her desire and Carl noted the natural alignment for the progression of moving into the position. Superintendent Lipp noted his excitement about Dani moving into the position.

Kelly Hickey made a motion to hire Dani Roberts, as Business Manager / District Clerk as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Kirsten Weatherford – Administrative Assistant – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp shared that Kirsten has previous experience in the same role and has jumped right in. He noted it as a seamless transition.

Kelly Hickey made a motion to hire Kirsten Weatherford, as Administrative Assistant as presented. Amy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Keith Michael – Custodian – Discussion was held. It was noted that the District still has one active opening for a Custodial position.

Amy Gibbons made a motion to hire Keith Michael, as Custodian as presented. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Appoint Clerk of the District – Discussion was held.

Amy Gibbons moved to appoint Dani Roberts as Clerk of the District. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Reorganization of the Board – Ms. Stovall shared that due to the newly appointed Clerk of the District, the Reorganization of the Board form needed to be updated and filed with the county.

E. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety - Review – Discussion was held. Superintendent Lipp reviewed the Yellowstone County Schools Weekly Report, week reviewed 1-30-20 – 2-05-22. There are four indicators that were reviewed in detail; 1 – Capacity of Healthcare and Public Health, 2 – Weekly Case Mix: Increase in new cases in children under 19, 3 – Weekly average daily case count per 100,000, 4 – Weekly Yellowstone County test positivity rate.

Superintendent Lipp recommended in his memo included within the board report to the board of trustees to keep the mask mandate for one more month. Superintendent Lipp shared that there is significant decrease in the school, resulting in zero cases since January 31st and a decline of cases in the community. He thinks that if that trend continues the RiverStone matrix will be showing some positive outcomes to be able to consider by next month's board meeting.

Carl noted that with the latest update from School District 2 and their decision to remove the mask mandate effective 02/11/2022. With that being said, Canyon Creek, Elysian, and Independent may be the only schools with a mask mandate in place. He noted he does not believe in the integrity of the data shared by John Felton. He also shared that we need to be looking at our own building's level of nature immunity.

Superintendent Lipp noted that he feels we should go to an optional mask policy. He would still

keep data on positive cases.

Amy Sironi shared that a previous decision was made by motion to follow the data from RiverStone Health in which the trustees would only make a decision to remove the mask mandate when 3 of the 5 indicators on the report provided by John Felton were marked in the “green”.

Carl does not feel that the data that is being utilized for decision making has any integrity. He noted that some common sense and a different way of making a decision on this should be considered.

Superintendent Lipp shared that there is a lot of mask fatigue from both the staff and students. He shared this is a tough couple of months coming up and changing to mask optional would be a positive and feels that the school is safe to a point. The potential of mask optional was supported by Superintendent Lipp, Kelly Hickey, and Carl Siroky.

Amy Gibbons shared that vaccine rate data has also not been shared and that has an impact on the decisions trying to be made.

Amy Sironi noted that part of the mask mandate decision was based off of keeping the school open with learning taking place within the building. Superintendent Lipp shared that liability concerns were also much more at the forefront when all of this began.

Amy Sironi’s concern is that if a decision is made to move to mask optional, there is potential for a quick turn-around to going back to a mask mandate.

Kelly Hickey inquired if there was a decision to move to mask optional, what would be the precursor to moving back to a mask mandate? Superintendent Lipp shared that the biggest concern was keeping the doors open and the staff healthy was the requirement to do so.

Carl Siroky made a motion to move to a mask optional policy, effective Monday, February 14th. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion passed with a split vote. Carl Siroky, Kelly Hickey and Amy Gibbons voted in favor and Amy Sironi voted against.

Agenda Items for Policy Work Session Meeting – March 3rd

- A. Board, Personnel, and Student Policy Series Review with MTSBA

Agenda Items for the Next Regular Meeting – March 10th

- B. Covid / School Health Update
- C. Policy 1905 Student, Staff and Community Health & Safety – Review
- D. Approve the FY23 School Calendar
- E. CCEA MOU
- F. Board, Personnel and Student Policy Series Adoption
- G. Science Curriculum

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, March 10th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Canyon Creek School District Library.

Amy Gibbons moved to adjourn the meeting at 8: p.m. Kelly Hickey seconded the motion. The motion

Page 5

February 10, 2022

Regular Meeting

passed unanimously.

Amy Sironi, Chair

Seara Stovall, Business Manager/Clerk