

**LOCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #26
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, BILLINGS, MT
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

MAY 12, 2009

Chair Susanne Vinton opened the regular meeting and called it to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following trustees and officers were present: Trustees Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum, Superintendent Eileen Johnson and District Clerk Diane Brook. Trustee Greg Bochy was absent.

Staff members present were Mike Bowman, Mike Sullivan, Dave DeBoer, Art Anderson, Darlene Hess, and Don Christman.

There were no registered guests.

Evelyn Pyburn from the Yellowstone County News was present.

Mrs. Vinton welcomed visitors and advised the following:

Any person present who wishes to address the board or raise any question about public school district matters or governing policies may do so under public participation. No discussion of personnel or individual students is permitted at this time. A limit of three minutes is placed on each speaker. Persons who want more time may make arrangements to be placed on a future agenda. The public is also reminded that they may provide input on all motions being considered by the board at this meeting.

INDIVIDUALS, DELEGATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Vinton acknowledged thank you cards received.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Approval of Minutes

Chair Vinton asked if there was any objection to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, the minutes of the April 14, 2009 regular board meeting and the special board meeting held on April 20, 2009 were approved.

B. Approve Bills and Wages for April

Chair Susanne Vinton asked if there was any objection to the bills and wages as presented. Hearing no objection, the bills and wages were approved.

C. Vote to Approve Election of Trustees and Certify the Levy Vote

Trustee Election

Becky Malenowsky	1,175
Susanne Vinton	1,041
Write-In	28
Write-in	11

Mill Levy Election

For	628
Against	884

Peter Freivalds moved to certify the election results as presented. Holly Sather seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Jason Hamrick, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, Becky Malenowsky, and Tamara Spillum voted yes; the motion passed six to zero.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

District clerk Diane Brook administered the Oaths of Office to trustees Becky Malenowsky and Susanne Vinton. Each of them signed their Certificate of Election of Trustee and Diane notarized their signature.

D. Election of Officers

Peter Freivalds nominated Susanne Vinton as Board Chair. Ms. Vinton asked if there were other nominations three times. There were no other nominations. Susanne Vinton was re-appointed Board Chair by acclamation.

Peter Freivalds nominated Becky Malenowsky for Vice Chair. Susanne asked if there were any other nominations. Becky Malenowsky nominated Greg Bochy. Susanne asked three times for any other nominations. Chair Vinton called for votes for Becky Malenowsky. Susanne Vinton, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. Susanne called for votes for Greg Bochy as Vice Chair. Becky Malenowsky voted aye. Becky Malenowsky was appointed Vice Chair with a majority vote.

E. Appointment of the Clerk to the Board

Becky Malenowsky moved to appoint Diane Brook as Clerk of the Board. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

F. Appointment of Authorized Representatives

Jason Hamrick moved to appoint Superintendent Eileen Johnson and District Clerk Diane Brook as authorized representatives. Peter Freivalds seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

G. Appointment of Activities Fund Custodian

Becky Malenowsky moved to appoint Debbie Strizich as Activities Fund Custodian. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

H. Hiring of Staff for the 2009-2010 School Year

Jason Hamrick moved to hire staff for the 2009-2010 per the attached recommended hiring list. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

I. Approve the Master Agreement between District and MEA/MFT

The changes in the attached Master Agreement had been negotiated between the Board representatives and MEA/MFT.

Chair Vinton said negotiations had been a very positive experience. She acknowledged the LEA Negotiations Committee: Cindy Gopp, Mary Kay Rottrup, Sharon Harris, and Stephanie Miller.

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the additions and changes to the Master Agreement by showing them on the screen.

Peter Freivalds moved to approve the 2009-12 Master Agreement between the Lockwood School District and the Lockwood Education Association of the MEA/MFT as presented. Holly Sather seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

J. Hiring of Two Secretaries

The administrative team screened and interviewed 19 candidates for the two secretarial positions. The recommendation is to hire Jen DuVal as Middle School secretary and Jessica Fitch as Intermediate school secretary.

Jason Hamrick moved to hire Jen DuVal and Jessica Fitch as building secretaries. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion.

Susanne asked if they had been fingerprint background checked. Eileen responded yes. Becky requested they come to a meeting to be introduced to the Board. Eileen said they would come in June or September.

Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

K. Non-Renewal of a Contract

Supt. Johnson recommended non-renewal of the teaching contract for Artis Brandt for the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Brandt was contracted to teach in the absence of Jill Dean who was on family leave earlier this school year. The contract must be non-renewed without cause or it becomes renewed automatically on June 1. Mrs. Brandt continues to work as a substitute in our district.

Becky moved non-renewal of the teaching contract for Artis Brandt per the recommendation above. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

L. Accept Resignation

Barbara Donahue has submitted her resignation. Supt. Johnson recommended the board accept her resignation.

Peter Freivalds moved to accept the resignation of Barbara Donahue. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

M. Policy No. 5251 Third and Final Reading

The attached policy from MTSBA was recommended for approval. There are times when this can be helpful to an employee who wants to leave for legitimate reasons and must wait to be released from the contract.

Tamara Spillum moved to adopt Policy No. 5251 on third and final reading. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

N. Policy No. 5222 Recommended Changes – First Reading

The area highlighted in yellow is a change that came from discussion during the negotiations. Susanne advised that the teacher evaluation process was discussed quite a bit during the negotiations process.

Becky asked about the reason for the new policy language. Susanne said both the teachers committee and board committee wanted a process to facilitate assistance and an opportunity for growth.

Eileen said this policy details the responsibility of the district should someone have deficiencies.

Chair Vinton asked for some additional wording and clarifications. These changes will be made and reflected in the second reading next month.

Peter Freivalds moved to approve Policy No. 5222 as presented on first reading with additions and clarifications requested by trustees. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

O. Tuition for New Day Students

The school district is required to process and approve tuition agreements for state/court placements of New Day students. The tuition forms will be sent to the Office of Public Instruction for authorization of the state tuition payments. The agreements, which contain some private student information, need to be signed by the Board Chair. At this time there are 17 tuition agreements, and there may be a couple more to sign by June. The district will receive approximately \$16,000-\$20,000 in state paid tuition. These funds are used to offset the district portion of the taxes for the general fund, so they reduce the taxes for our community. The final amount is dependent on each student's grade level and number of days attending. Your approval of the tuition agreements is necessary in order to carry out the process.

Tamara Spillum moved to approve tuition agreements for New Day Students. Holly Sather seconded the motion. Becky Malenowsky, Jason Hamrick, Tamara Spillum, Holly Sather, Peter Freivalds, and Susanne Vinton voted yes. The motion passed six to zero.

DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Primary – Mike Bowman
- B. Intermediate – Dave DeBoer
- C. Middle School – Mike Sullivan
- D. Curriculum – Don Christman
- E. Technology – Pam Richau was absent. Darlene Hess was present in her stead.
- F. Facilities – Art Anderson distributed his report with Proposed 2009 Summer

Projects. He advised there will be a project meeting to discuss Bid Pack IV future scheduling, they will also review Bid Pack 3 and warranty issues on the Middle school. They hope to meet or even beat the schedule for the last of the Bid Pack IV project. The Boys & Girls Club project is just about complete. They are installing the tiles today; many of them were created by the students. They are working toward completion of Mr. Bowman's office. The landscape project has been delayed by the weather. The critical date is June 25. They are confident they will be prepared for the community sod laying project on that day.

G. Superintendent – Eileen advised that May 14 is the MTSBA Spring Workshop, and the Montana School Law Seminar, will be on Thursday, June 11 in Billings. She also advised about the Learning Landscapes ideas presented to her and Art.

It was noted that funding for these summer projects will come from Building Reserve Fund, One-Time-Only Funds, and perhaps some stimulus money.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

The board needs to set up two committees, Health Insurance and Retirement Incentive. Peter and Jason both said they would serve on one of the committees. Eileen said she would ask Stephanie Smith Miller whether teachers may be willing to meet during the summer for these committees.

Chair Vinton reminded trustees that they are required to visit each building sometime during the school year.

ADJOURN

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Peter Freivalds moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Becky Malenowsky seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Becky Malenowsky, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

Susanne Vinton, Chairperson

Diane M. Brook, District Clerk