

Proceedings of the Board of Trustees
Lockwood School District No. 26
Yellowstone County, Billings, MT
Regular Meeting of October 14, 2008

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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susanne Vinton opened the regular meeting, called it to order at 7:01 p.m., and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Interim Trustee Holly Sather was sworn in by District Clerk Diane Brook per the appointment made via approved motion at the September 9, 2008 board meeting.

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. Greg Bochy was absent.

Staff members present were Dave DeBoer, Mike Sullivan, Mike Bowman, Pam Richau, Keith Tresch, Bob Hankins, Carol Dyk, Susan Andersen, Don Christman, and Art Anderson.

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, DISTRICT NEWS

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A representative of Montana Schools Group Insurance Authority that oversees our Workers' Compensation Risk and Retention Program presented the Lockwood Schools with a symbol of a large check for \$7,665. This is a rebate for Lockwood qualifying as a safe school. The rebate will actually be credited against the school's WCRRP quarterly premium. Supt. Johnson noted Art

Anderson's diligent work to keep the campus safe.

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A. Presentation from Intermediate Teachers on Summer Conference
Sponsored by ExxonMobil

Carol Dyk, Susan Andersen and Bob Hankins attended a conference paid for by ExxonMobil. They came back with new teaching tools and a renewed excitement for teaching. They said the Exxon-Mobil Academy was amazing. They all thanked Pam Malek and ExxonMobil for the opportunity.

B. Presentation from Technology Student Intern Funded by ExxonMobil

Paul Asleson was the student intern. Technology Director Pam Richau read aloud her thank you letter to Pam Malek and ExxonMobil. Paul also expressed appreciation for the opportunity and he showed the movie he had made illustrating the progress of the building construction and moving all the classrooms.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE FROM HIGH TECH CONSTRUCTION

Shane Flohr and Scott Chartier of High Tech Construction and Architect Terry Sukut of JGA were present to provide the update. High Tech advised that they have good news; they believe they will have \$50,000 to \$60,000 left in the contingency after the middle school project is completed. They are still working to get to a finished product, but felt they were close enough to say they will have money to give back. They were able to get better pricing which allowed them to return some money to the district.

It was noted that this money could be transferred for completion of the HVAC project and it could possibly be used to add cooling to the middle school. Shane feels they will not need the entire contingency (\$230,000) for Bid Pack IV.

Supt. Johnson advised that lights in the middle school halls were not wired so they could be on at night for use with security cameras. That change has been requested, and we will be billed for the change.

Work is continuing on 41 units in the elementary school. There are some problems they are still working on. Eileen advised that at a meeting with Memco and Star Service, they promised to work tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, and Friday to get the ventilator units commissioned and functioning.

There is continuing work on the air exchange in the middle school. There is also a sewer odor inside the building that they are working to track down and resolve.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Oath of office for Holly Sather as Interim Trustee

This item was completed at the beginning of the meeting.

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B. Approval of Board Minutes

Chair Susanne Vinton asked if there was any objection to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, the minutes of the September 9, 2008 regular board meeting, and the September 16, 2008 special board meeting were approved.

C. Approval of Bills and Wages

Chair Susanne Vinton asked if there was any objection to the bills and wages as presented. Hearing none, the bills and wages were approved.

D. Grant Recommendation

Superintendent Johnson made the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees:

After meeting with Beth Shumate once again, I am recommending that we hire her to write the grants necessary to develop our acres to the east into softball and soccer fields as well as a walking trail. All of this will be available to the school and the community for use. We would have to commit \$75,000 of Building Reserve Funds to the project. The work already completed such as the extensive fencing, sidewalks, parking, site preparation and well can be part of our match. The grant is due in February, and if successful, the work could take place next summer and early fall. There are many months of preparation for this application. We would contract with Beth for these services.

Chair Vinton read aloud the letter from Beth Shumate. Eileen said that all the grants Beth had recently written have been approved. She feels that Lockwood Schools would have a good chance of getting the \$75,000 Fish, Wildlife and Parks grant. The district would have to commit a certain amount of money and/or in-kind match to it. If the cost for the development exceeds our required match plus the \$75,000 grant, the district may have to add more funds to the project. Mrs. Johnson said we would be required to put the project out to bid to see what the cost would be prior to making any final commitment of funds.

Eileen advised that she has committed her time to work with Beth Shumate to meet with the Yellowstone County Commissioners, the Sewer Board and the Department of Transportation. They want to encourage installation of sidewalks as road and sewer construction takes place, which will save money and time. Sidewalks are definitely needed for safe routes to school.

Trustee Peter Freivalds asked about future plans for Building Reserve funds. Facilities Manager Art Anderson and Supt. Johnson advised plans include roofing, landscaping, and possible air conditioning for the new middle school.

Eileen asked to contract with Beth Shumate to write the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks grant.

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Peter Freivalds moved to contract with Beth Shumate for grant writing. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Becky Malenowsky, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

E. Health Insurance Agreement

Mrs. Johnson provided the information: As you are aware, our health insurance group has merged with MUST (Montana Unified School Trust). This will all take place on January 1, 2009. In order to continue our coverage without any benefit changes we need to agree to the terms set by the two groups. Before March we will have meetings with LEA to determine which packages we will accept for our employees. Then MUST will quote us the rate for one year; they will require a three-year commitment from us.

The Lockwood Education Association met, voted, agreed to, and signed a Memorandum of Agreement noting that the Montana Unified Trust (MUST) 80/20 500/500 plan shall be the selected insurance program in replacement of Blue Cross/Blue Shield (MSHWP) through June 30, 2009.

Tamara Spillum moved to stay with MUST health insurance for the remainder of the school year, through June 30, 2009. Jason Hamrick seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Becky Malenowsky, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

The Memorandum of Agreement and the MUST Participation and Affiliation Agreement for the period of January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 were signed by Chair Susanne Vinton and attested by District Clerk Diane Brook.

F. Hiring of a Paraprofessional

April Lawver is recommended as a part-time paraprofessional in our Title I program and a part-time day care assistant. She has passed the fingerprint background check.

Becky Malenowsky moved to hire April Lawver for the above-mentioned positions. Peter Freivalds seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Becky Malenowsky, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick

voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

G. Hiring of Coaches and Dance Director

The following current employees of the district were recommended for these positions:

Boys' Basketball: Scott Felche, Wes Caldwell and Randall Rice
Dance: Barbara Frank

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Jason Hamrick moved to hire these people per the recommendation. Tamara Spillum seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Becky Malenowsky, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

H. Hiring of Substitutes

Becky Malenowsky moved to hire the following substitutes, all of whom have an approved fingerprint background check on file, per the list provided with the agenda:

Substitute Teachers: Serena Becker, Charles Brabeck, Michelle Brosovich, Danielle Rovig, and Tracy Walker

Support Staff Substitutes: Amanda Fahrenbruck, Staci Rang, and Elizabeth Swisher

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

DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Advertising Committee Report

No recommendation was made at this time. A trustee asked why Athletics was chosen to receive advertising proceeds.

Eileen advised that Athletics is the only group that has to pay for their own expenses; they do not receive full funding from the general fund.

B. Curriculum - Don Christman advised that we will receive half a grant in the amount of \$12,500 to provide activity kits for the students. We will partner with MSU B on the project.

C. Primary

D. Intermediate

E. Technology

- F. Middle School - Mike Sullivan invited trustees to hear Tim Lewis speak about MBI. Susan Kneib received a "One Class at a Time" monetary award for her classroom.
- G. Facilities – Even with all the rain there were no incidents of leaky roofs today. The campus had a lot of tree damage from the snow. The punch list for the middle school is almost complete; there has been good cooperation. Art is still waiting to receive some of the training on the HVAC systems to be provided by the contractors.

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H. Superintendent

Eileen advised that we will have three people working 20 hours per week at Lockwood Schools funded through Experience Works, a Federal Title V Program. One is working as a general duty aide, one is doing clerical duties, and the other person will have evening custodial duties.

Supt. Johnson advised trustees that Artis Brandt is a long-term substitute for a teacher on family leave. After her 35th consecutive day, she must be put under contract.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Staff Appreciation Lunch was scheduled for Friday, December 5, 2008.

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Becky Malenowsky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Peter Freivalds seconded the motion. Susanne Vinton, Becky Malenowsky, Holly Sather, Tamara Spillum, Peter Freivalds, and Jason Hamrick voted aye. The motion passed six to zero.

Sue Vinton, Chairperson

Diane M. Brook, District Clerk

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