

## **Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – May 9, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on May 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Dawn Blain, Justin Oswald, Melvin Stene, Kathy Grewell, Sharon Songstad and Karin Williams. Trustee Doug Whitehead joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m. via phone. Also present were Allison Evertz, Superintendent, and Felicia Smith, District Clerk/Business Manager. Visitors in attendance were: Mandi Hernandez, Jason Stene, Michael Gebhardt, Ken Adams, Mike Creeden, Amanda Dinsdale, Stacie Nardinger, Patty Bergum-Nafts, Terra Stene, Sarrah Walstad, Krist Walstad, Riley Killion, Brandy Feller, Tammie Grewell, Robert Reed, Mary Koon, Jennifer Ingraham and Jodi Milton.

Dawn Blain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Blain welcomed guests, explained procedure and asked for public comment. Mike Creeden offered commented on the Board's procedures and rendered his opinion that the board is not in compliance with the law. Krist Walstad commented on making the board packet available online.

Consent Agenda: Claim Warrants ACH 99727-99723 & 48697-48756; Payroll Warrants ACH 85907-85837 & 62644-62676; Activity Warrants ACH & 16527-16544; Minutes: 03/30/2022, 04/11/2022, 04/21/2022. Melvin Stene made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mike Creeden commented regarding the contents of the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

### **IV. Reports**

- a. Student Council – Mandi Hernandez stated that the staff/senior volleyball and basketball games are set for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Applications have been sent out for student council for next year.
- b. Athletic Director – Ms. Hernandez notified the Board that middle school track finished up their season on May 5<sup>th</sup> in a meet hosted by Joliet. The sports banquet will be held May 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a grant through Reach Higher to help pay for the shot clock that is now required by MHSA. Girls' softball remains undefeated and they will play at the Divisional Tournament in Hardin on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. State softball will be held in Hamilton May 26-28. District track is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>, Divisionals are May 20<sup>th</sup>, and State is May 27-28 in Great Falls.
- c. Building Report – The building report was provided in the Board packet for review. The maintenance crew, along with ATS, are currently addressing and assessing the HVAC system issues. Supplies are being acquired for the high school bathroom remodel this summer, however prices have risen significantly since our last bathroom remodel. Lead testing/remediation is ongoing. A prioritized project list was provided to the Board.

V. Correspondence – Correspondence was provided to the Board.

### **VI. Unfinished Business**

- a. Message Center/Reader Board – The Board was provided three options for the final design of the reader board. Northwestern Energy stated they will provide a free service, which means there will be no charge to the school for the electricity drawn by the reader board.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve option 3. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Public Comment: Mike Gebhardt asked if the Board had discussed the location of the sign in previous meetings, Board Chair indicated that it was discussed. Amanda Dinsdale also offered comment on the location of the sign and asked who would be

responsible for updating the sign; Superintendent Evertz indicated that Mrs. Myers would potentially be in charge of the sign updates. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

- b. High School Math Requirements – The Board previously discussed the math requirements at the April Board meeting. Seven options were provided to the board regarding potential changes to the math requirements. Superintendent Evertz recommended that the Board approve Option 2: require 3 years of math with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year online or in person.

Justin Oswald made a motion to approve Option 2 with the online option being of a high school equivalent. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was board discussion about the type of courses available. Public comment: Terra Stene asked about options for gifted students; Superintendent Evertz indicated that she would look into the options available. Tammie Grewell questioned requiring 3 years of math when most students only need 2 years of instruction in most professions. Jodi Milton requested clarification of in person vs. online. Sarrah Walstad asked who paid for online courses; Superintendent Evertz indicated that the District pays for online courses. Brandy Feller questioned why there was a survey provided to students (who would prefer only 2 years), if the Board was not going to follow the wishes of the students. Jason Stene asked if the online option was chosen take pressure off of our short staffed teachers. Amanda Dinsdale also questioned if Option 2 was mainly a staffing issue. Stacie Nardinger stated that middle school students receive high school credit for any classes that meet that requirement. The vote by the Board was: Yea-Dawn Blain, Karin Williams, Melvin Stene and Kathy Grewell; Nay-Sharon Songstad and Justin Oswald (H).

- c. MTSBA Policy Update – The Montana School Boards Association provided updates to policies to be compliant with state and federal law and best practice. The policy committee met on April 26, 2022 to review each policy included in the updates and make recommendations to the Board. The policy committee recommended the following:

Policy changes recommended for adoption	Policy changes that require further review	Policies not recommended for adoption	New policies to adopt
5321	3121	5121	7265
2161P	2510	5314	3612F
1520		3305	8502
2167		2170	
2168		3310P	
2312			
3310			
3416			
5223			
5228P			
5450 & 5450F & 5450P			
8300			
3612 & 3612P			
3413F1 & F2			

Justin Oswald made a motion to accept the recommendation of the policy committee and adopt the changes. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mike



Creeden commented that he felt the policies should be included in the board packet. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

Justin Oswald made a motion to approve the first reading of the new policies to be adopted: 7265, 3612F and 8502. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Jason Stene asked about the procedure for adopting new policies. Mike Creeden commented that he felt the policies should be included in the board packet. Sarrah Walstad asked about the availability of the public to see the policy changes; Superintendent Evertz indicated that all the policy changes were included in both the April 11<sup>th</sup> board packet and also the April 26<sup>th</sup> board packet; and a copy could be obtained from the clerk. Terra Stene commented that she would like the changes shown in the packet. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

## VII. New Business

- a. Lunch Prices for Academic School Year 2022-23 – Lunch prices have not changed since 2013. The last two years we have had a waiver which made meals free for everyone, however that waiver will not be available going forward. Due to the increase in food prices and how expensive it is to run a food program, Superintendent Evertz recommended the following new lunch prices:

Breakfast: K1-5 \$2.00 / 6-12 \$2.25 / Adults \$2.75  
Lunch: K1-5 \$2.50 / 6-12 \$3.00 / Adults \$3.50

Karin Williams made a motion to approve the suggested raise to breakfast and lunch prices for the 2022-23 school year. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Jason Stene asked about portion size; Superintendent Evertz indicated that anyone can go back for seconds if they would like more food. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

- b. Multi District Agreement with Red Lodge School District – Because the Red Lodge School district is looking into transportation questions, Superintendent Evertz recommended that this item be tabled.

Justin Oswald made a motion to table this agenda item. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (H).

- c. Resolution to Dispose of District Property – The District has the following surplus property which it would like to dispose of: Library Books (list provided in the board packet); plow blade; ice machine; machine weights; phone system; file cabinets; fire file cabinets; salad bar; folding tables; TV and stands; cafeteria tables; 8 bar stools; computer desks; metal teacher desks.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the resolution to disposal of school district property. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Public comment: Mike Creeden disagreed with the Board's procedure for disposing of district property. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

## VIII. Personnel

- a. Hiring  
Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board accept the resignation of John Counter effective May 26, 2022.

Karin Williams made a motion to accept the resignation of John Counter effective May 26, 2022. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (E).

The Board would like to hire Clark Begger as the District Superintendent effective July 1, 2022, pending contract negotiations.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Clark Begger as the District Superintendent effective July 1, 2022, pending contract negotiations. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mike Creeden disagreed with the Board's procedure for hiring the new superintendent. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Mandi Hernandez as the middle school/high school principal.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Mandi Hernandez as the middle school/high school principal effective July 1, 2022 pending contract negotiations. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Jennifer Ingraham commented that she believed the new board members should hire the principal, and she also felt that the candidates were not asked the exact same questions during the interviews. Mike Creeden disagreed with the Board's procedure for hiring the principal. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the renewal of Hallie Spoklie-Luoma's teaching contract for the 2022-23 school year.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to approve the renewal of Hallie Spoklie-Luoma's teacher contract for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Ashley Nelson as summer help for the 2022 summer season.

Melvin Stene made a motion to approve the hiring of Ashley Nelson as summer help for the 2022 summer season. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Patty Bergum as a summer school teacher for the 2022 summer season.

Karin Williams made a motion to approve the hiring of Patty Bergum as a summer school teacher for the 2022 summer season. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (E).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Kevin Kriskovich as a summer school teacher for the 2022 summer season.



Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the hiring of Kevin Kriskovich as a summer school teacher for the 2022 summer season. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (E).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Marriah Anderson as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Marriah Anderson as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Toni Atkins as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Toni Atkins as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Natalie Cook as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Natalie Cook as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Nicole Juhnke as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Nicole Juhnke as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Aly Nardinger as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Aly Nardinger as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Issa Sharpe as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Issa Sharpe as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Brenda Wetstein as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Brenda Wetstein as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Cherish Wetstein as an aide for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Cherish Wetstein as an aide for the 2022-23 school year. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Christine Bergum as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Christine Bergum as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Scott Hunt as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Scott Hunt as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Tammy Taylor as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Tammy Taylor as a custodian for the 2022-23 school year. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Edwin Sharpe as assistant facilities manager for the 2022-23 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Edwin Sharpe as assistant facilities manager for the 2022-23 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Mike McKay as facilities manager for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Mike McKay as facilities manager for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Rodney Biorn as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year.



Karin Williams made a motion to hire Rodney Biorn as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Sandy Matlock as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire Sandy Matlock as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Bob Reed as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Bob Reed as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Sam Smith as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Sam Smith as morning and afternoon route driver for the 2022-23 school year. Sharon Songstad seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Jason Stene offered public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Sam Smith as the transportation supervisor for the 2022-23 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to hire Sam Smith as the transportation supervisor for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. Melvin Stene asked for the number of hours for this job duty. Amanda Dinsdale asked who previously had these duties; Superintendent Evertz indicated that Russ Salo was the previous transportation supervisor, and that many people worked together to facilitate that position. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Mark Rupprecht as the crossing guard for the 2022-23 school year.

Sharon Songstad made a motion to hire Mark Rupprecht as the crossing guard for the 2022-23 school year. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Amanda Dinsdale commented that she appreciated Mark. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Laura Smith as the Head Nutrition Specialist for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Laura Smith as the Head Nutrition Specialist for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Emily Jones as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year.

Melvin Stene made a motion to hire Emily Jones as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Janice Marie Jones as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Janice Marie Jones as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Diane Manis as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to hire Diane Manis as a nutrition assistant for the 2022-23 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Supt. Evertz recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Colette Webber as the head high school volleyball coach for the 2022-23 school year.

Justin Oswald made a motion to hire Colette Webber as the head high school volleyball coach for the 2022-23 school year. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (H).

Mike Creeden suggested that the Board hire all the individuals as listed with one vote.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the list of extracurricular and co-curricular employees for the 2022-23 school year. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Terra Stene commented that she felt it was premature to hire some of these positions. The motion was unanimously carried, 6-0 (E) & (H), Doug Whitehead not voting.

#### **IX. Principal/Business Manager Reports**

High School Principal – Ms. Evertz advised the Board on: high school academics; Mrs. Cole's food truck assignment; the Wyoming math competition; junior research papers and senior projects.

Principal – Mr. Begger was not present to update the board on middle school and elementary activities.

Business Manager – Ms. Smith provided the Board with reports of all claims paid, payroll disbursements, and a financial statement. Election results were presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the tally sheets produced by the election judges and the Board canvassed the votes from the election held on May 3, 2022.

Melvin Stene made a motion to accept the election results provided by the election judges from the May 3, 2022 elementary trustee and tech levy elections. Justin Oswald seconded the motion. There



was no discussion. Public comment: Mike Creeden commented that he appreciate the Board doing this correctly. Amanda Dinsdale commented that she was impressed with the number of ballots returned. Mike Gebhardt also offered public. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (E).

Kathy Grewell made a motion to accept the election results provided by the election judges from the May 3, 2022 high school tech levy election. Melvin Stene seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mike Creeden commented that he thought Trustee Whitehead voted on the elementary motion just prior to this one; Trustee Whitehead indicated that he did not vote on that motion. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (H).

**X. Items for Next Agenda**

Math Requirements  
County Nurse Interlocal Agreement  
Red Lodge Multi District Agreement

**XI. Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**

No changes to the Plan were necessary.

**XII. Next Board Meeting Date**

The next regular Board meeting will be held June 13, 2022 in the Joliet School Library.

Trustee Whitehead discussed rescinding the vote on the extracurricular and co-curricular positions at the next meeting so the positions can be separated into high school and middle school positions, thus enabling him to vote on the high school positions.

Tammie Grewell commented that she is disappointed that the decorum in the Joliet board meetings has become so contentious.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Melvin Stene made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (B).

Approved 6-27-22

Board Chair

Dawn Blain

Clerk

[Signature]