



# Potomac Elementary School

## School Board Minutes

for

May 13, 2019

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*"Potomac School equips each student for his/her future  
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience."*

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### Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson and Kelsy Ployhar. Jill Thornton, Clerk and John Rouse, Principal were also in attendance.

**Public Input** (for issues not on the agenda) None

**Minutes** - Craig moved to approve the minutes from April 8, 2019. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

### Board Reorganization

1. Seat New Trustee: Cliff Vann was elected by acclamation to a 3 year term. Craig Nelson stepped down from Trustee position.
2. Cliff Vann was sworn in.
3. Select Officers:  
Kelsy nominated Cliff Vann to serve as Board Chair. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**  
Gary nominated Kelsy Ployhar to serve as Vice Chair. Cliff seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0.**
4. Appoint Business Manager/Clerk  
Kelsy moved to appoint Jill Thornton as Business Manager/Clerk of the District. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

### Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$58,594.23. Total Payroll = \$72,094.44.

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

Petty Cash – Supplemental to monthly warrants used between Board Meetings – Reimbursed thru Claims.

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) –On Apr 1, 2019 - \$40,158.32 thru Apr 30, 2019 - \$41,488.26.

Kelsy moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

### Teacher Presentations

*Jen Vogel* talked about our student Jackson. Working with him required an emergency medical plan and training, though no medical intervention has been necessary. He has a great bond with Christi, and has been showing great advances.

*Karry Betson* has worked with the consultant through our MCLP grant for her kindergarten class to work with Math books and vocabulary. The students pick up the math and vocabulary quickly.

## Principals Report

All of the following activities and accomplishments would not have been possible without the full cooperation and engagement of all of the Potomac School staff members.

- **Teaching and Learning- MCLP Grant**

- We had our last MCLP grant day for the school year on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. During that day-long session, we reviewed our progress thus far relative to the goals of our grant. We also discussed our innovative grant award and plans for the 2019-20 school year.
- As the board members are aware the focus of our MCLP grant is literacy, and we have been addressing literacy not only in our language arts and in our math classes, but also we have been integrating literacy strategies in our science and social studies classes as well. For 2019-20 this integration of literacy will be expanded to our physical education program as well. Research evidence supports the idea that movement enhancing learning by increasing student engagement and by memories centers of the brain that are linking to movement. We also know from observing our students that they are keenly engaged during dramatic play or performing arts such as the Missoula Children's theater or the 2 Valleys dramatic performance workshops. We are going to integrate literacy, movement, creative dramatics, performing arts, and physical education strategies to engage our students.
- Picture, if you will, K-3 students who are being exposed to one of Grimm's fairy tales with all its drama and interesting characters. Now add to that picture our students working in small groups to extend that fairy tale by placing it in a Potomac Valley setting in the year 2019. Creating new characters and adding new plots to the story. The students would write their "screen play" based on the original Grimm's fairy tale but with their unique twists. As the students prepare to present their new tale to their fellow students, there would be plenty of opportunity for students to engage in active physical activities.
- Assuming that the student population at Potomac School continue on the current trend of between 5 and 10 students per grade level, there will be a point where it may be necessary for our regular classroom teachers to assume responsibility for teaching the required elements of physical education in order to save the additional costs associated with having a standalone P.E. teacher. If this is the case, our teachers will have had an opportunity to observe how one can integrate physical education with the other content courses and lessons.
- The administration will be requesting to add a grant-funded position to accomplish this innovative integrated approach to teaching physical education and literacy for the 2019-20 school year with the clear understanding that the continuation of funding for this pilot program is dependent on the availability of grant funds.

- **Budget and Finance**

- We have received notification that will continue to receive some REAP funding for 2019-20. Most of these dollars are currently earmarked as going to support the Explorers program for 2019-20.
- We were also notified that we will receiving \$8,900 in E-Rate funds. The E-Rate regulations have been changing, so I am not completely clear as to what can now be purchased with these funds. For example, E-Rate used to provide schools with heavily discounted rates for cell phones and services. This discounting has been significantly reduced recently. Most of our current E-Rate allocation now goes towards Internet connectivity and services provided by Blackfoot Communications.
- We are anticipating an additional \$10,000 as part of our innovative program literacy grant from OPI for next year. This will help offset some of the costs associated with the proposed interventionist position that we are proposing for next year out of the grant.

- **Student Activities**

- Our track season is going well. Our students performed well in the areas that we have been able to compete. We should have some students qualify for the final meet of the year later this month. We appreciate the time and effort of our track coaches this year: Ike Wallace and Beth Copenhaver.

- The eighth graders are in Texas this week at Texas A&M University at Galveston. They should be having a great experience. We appreciate the hard work of the students and the support of their parents during the fund-raising efforts. A special thanks goes to Beth Copenhaver for her encouragement of the students.

- **Facilities**

- We have received a preliminary bid to install sidewalks around the south side of the main building that will make it possible for someone in a wheelchair to navigate from the west side of our building to the east side as well as access the playground slab area.
- We plan to submit a grant application to the historical foundation in the fall to help with the costs of replacing the wooden ramp with a concrete one.
- PTC has approved the expenditure of funds to help offset a significant portion of the costs for the sidewalks as well as the addition of a new 20' x 35' slab on the playground and a new discus ring at the track. We still need to secure a bid for dirt work for the sidewalk project.
- Greg and I will be replacing a number of boards on our large wooden play structure in June. The PTC funds also will help with this expense.
- We are waiting for a final approval from the county health department of our plan to remodel the kitchen and to do the necessary upgrades in the main building for our lunch and breakfast programs. We do not have the cost estimates for this remodel project at this time.
- In order to better serve the needs of our special education students, we will be moving the special education room to the main floor. This means that the current 2/3 classroom will move downstairs to the current Title I room. The Title I resources will be moved to the current special education room.

- **Safety**

- As part of our sidewalk project, we are removing those areas in our existing sidewalks that are uneven.

**Clerks Report - None**

**Board Professional Development Reports**

Gary noted that very few school levies were voted in. Kelsy attended the Parent/Teacher meeting, track and worked with Cliff on Certified Negotiations. Cliff is also training through his work to be a special presenter.

**School Board Calendar** – Add “What it means to be a School Board Member” to the May meeting.

**Certified Negotiations**

Cliff and Kelsy have been working with the teachers to get to an agreement that ensures payroll for starting teachers is competitive, all compensation is adjusted for inflation and payroll for the general fund stays within the 80% of total funds. There has been no final decision at this point.

**Personnel**

Kelsy moved to accept John ‘Ike’ Wallace non-renewal. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

Kelsy moved to approve a new partially grant-funded position as a teacher and interventionist for the 2019-2020 school year. Gary seconded the motion. Kelsy moved to table the motion until the proposal is reworked by John Rouse. Gary seconded the motion to table the 1<sup>st</sup> motion. **Passed 3-0**

Gary moved to approve Sarah Duello as Instructional Aide for the 2019-2020 school year. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

Gary moved to approve the intent to hire the following Classified for the 2019-2020 school year: Gail Abbott for Title Aide, Debra Blodget for Cook, Connie Buresh for Special Ed Aide, Janette Ployhar for Secretary and Greg Stevens for Custodian. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

**Bus Routes**

There are no changes to the existing bus routes. Kelsy moves to approve the bus routes. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

**Missoula County Election Contract**

Kelsy moved to approve the Missoula County Election contract. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

**Discussion – moving January and May Board Meetings**

Cliff just wanted to bring up the possibility of moving the January and May board meetings from Monday to Tuesday due to personal preference. The discussion came to the conclusion that there will always be something interfering with a few meetings and the board decided to maintain the second Monday of the month schedule.

**Discussion of Potomac School District #11 Board Policy 3612 and Related Documents**

Principal Rouse just wanted to notify the board of the need for a public meeting to allow discussion on this policy and related documents. No questions were brought forward on policy 3612 and related documents.

**Adjourn**

Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 9:32 pm.

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Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date