



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

April 11, 2016

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

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, Jason Nordberg and Kelsy Ployhar. Jill Thornton, clerk, and Angie Williams, Principal, were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda)

Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$23,686.44, Total Payroll = \$71,993.22

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

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

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) – Beg. Balance Mar 1, 2016 - \$32,043.35; End Balance Mar 31, 2016 - \$30,772.93

Kelsy moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Teacher Reports

Kristina Davis sixth grade science class is contacting scientists in Hawaii and Yellowstone to learn about volcanos. In their e-mails, they are hoping to Skype with the scientists. 2) she is teaching an elective on Business and Finance. In this class the students keep an account with 'funds' they receive for attending school. They develop a business plan with costs associated with it, and maintain a register and write checks for that plan. 3) last year, our school had 100% attendance at the STEM conference at the university. We were awarded \$1,000 for this, and the class is using these funds for a 3D printer. This also uses their knowledge of apps on iPhones for designing projects for the printer.

Kristy Pohlman's third grade class is working on 'Zones of Behavior'. Those zones are designated with colors, with green being calm and attentive. The class teaches the students to recognize when they are angry or other danger 'Zones' and gives them tools to adjust their feelings and behavior back to the green zone. She is also working with her students on food webs in eco system habitats. They choose an animal and learn what they eat as well as what eats them and other animals in that same ecology.

Principals Report

Athletics- We have 21 kids out for track. Gary dug out the long jump pit and Tony Oien built the frame. Now we're just waiting for the sand to be delivered and we can finish it up! The first track meet is Wednesday.

Calendar- As requested at the last Board meeting, we put together pros and cons to changing the daily school schedule to release at 4:00 instead of 4:30. I have attached the form to my report.

Reports- There has been a good response to the School Discipline Report form. I visited with Mike from Majestic about the process we will use together to handle behavior and discipline on the buses. He is very agreeable to working with the school and sees the benefits of doing so.

Adult Ed- Ms. Schmill is teaching a class on hand chimes.
Carol White will be teaching a couple classes on Dancing.

Staffing- This year I have been filling the duties of the special education teacher as well as principal. I have been teaching 2 ½ -3 hours a day as well as completing all of the paperwork and reports involved with meetings and such. Some days this goes great and some days it doesn't. Looking ahead to next year the time commitment for student contact could increase to 4-5 hours a day. I can still easily handle the paperwork and be the special education coordinator, but we need a qualified person to handle instruction.

Professional Development

April 15th I'll be going to Butte for a Small Rural Schools conference on Emergency Planning.

April 19-20th Great Falls- Montana Symposium focusing on Middle school structure and programs.

On April 22nd- for the teacher work day, we will all be going to Lolo School to observe and talk to teachers and administration about their transition and how they use the standards based grading.

In June, six teachers will be going to the Literacy in Motion conference at Judd University in Elgin, IL, outside of Chicago. This is being paid for from our REAP grant funds. Many of the speakers are noted authors of children and young adult books. The focus is on firing up literacy in schools. My hope is that they will come back with a fresh perspective and united goals on building up our reading program.

Upcoming-

April 13- Track meet at Big Sky HS

April 18- Begin Smarter Balance testing

April 21- Kindergarten Roundup

April 22- Track meet at Frenchtown

April 23- STEM conference for 7-8 girls in Missoula (Kristina and I will be chaperoning.)

April 27- Track meet at Big Sky HS

June 1- Graduation

Board Professional Development Reports

Jason and Kelsy both participated in 4H, and Kelsy reviewed the checklist for the board reports for April with Jill. Gary dug the long jump hole, sprayed weeds, and is refurbishing the grandstands. Cliff has signed up to be certified to teach archery to teachers. This would allow those teachers to then become certified themselves to teach it in school.

School Board Calendar

Jason is to review the next board meeting packet.

Election Review – Election by Acclimation

Gary moved to call the Potomac School Election by Acclimation. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

2016-2017 School Calendar

Angie presented the proposed school calendar for 2016-2017 with pros and cons from our staff. This calendar also follows Missoula County.

To start the discussion, Kelsy moved to keep the calendar we currently use. Gary seconded the motion.

Kelsy said she is concerned with the following: 1) If Missoula County changes our calendar, will we? 2) She doesn't like changing the release time as parents who get off their work at 5pm will have difficulties with the new schedule. And 3) can homework still be finished in the shorter day?

Angie said we do try to maintain our calendar to have the same days off as Missoula County. And considering homework, it can work within the shorter day. We are moving in the direction of not having as much homework. Kristina said she has students come in during recess for help with their homework, and there are other times available as well.

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Cliff asked the staff what they think of the new calendar. They stated they feel it will give them a better schedule for planning their classes. The current calendar we have means they have to double up on some of their lessons, where the new calendar with the 5 additional days allows them to schedule those lessons for better educational results.

Cliff said he came into this on the fence, but when he hears that the staff feels this will be better for instruction he thinks we should listen.

Jason asked if this would then provide a better education. Angie said it creates a better opportunity for a better education, so yes.

Cliff called for a vote on the motion on the floor to maintain the current calendar. **Failed 2-3**

Gary moved to adopt the new proposed calendar as presented. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 3-2**

Personnel – B Ryan Resignation

Angie recommended accepting Beth Ryan’s resignation. Gary moves to accept the resignation. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Personnel – Certified Teachers recommended for Rehire

Angie recommended rehire of K Davis, D Gaglia, T Klein, K Pohlman, S Schmill and A Stitt. Kelsy moved to accept Angie’s recommendation. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Personnel – Karry Betson

Angie recommends hiring Karry Betson for the 2016-2017 school year. Kelsy moves to accept Angie’s recommendation. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Personnel – Recommendation to rehire Angie Williams as principal

Jason moved to rehire Angie Williams as principal. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Personnel – Principal and Clerk Negotiation Committee

Cliff Vann and Kelsy Ployhar volunteered to be on the Principal and Clerk negotiation committee.

MUST Health Insurance for 2016-2017

Kelsy moved to approve the MUST Health Ins plan for 2016-2017. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Missoula County Election Contract for 2017

Jason moved to approve the Missoula County Election Contract for 2017. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Personnel – Nancy Linnell

Chair Vann closed the meeting to the public and put it into executive session at 8:46pm.

The meeting was reopened at 8:55pm.

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Adjourn

Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 8:55 pm.

Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date