



# Potomac Elementary School

## School Board Minutes

For  
September 10, 2018

Phone (406) 244-5581

Fax (406) 244-5840

[www.potomacschoolmontana.us](http://www.potomacschoolmontana.us)

*“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 Vice Chair Kelsy Ployhar 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 Steven Van Grinsven. Jill Thornton, Clerk and John Rouse, Principal were also in attendance.

**Public Input** (for issues not on the agenda) The 8<sup>th</sup> grade came to share some of their thoughts on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade ‘Capstone’ trip. They have 10 students, and are thinking of picking from the following destinations: Catalina Island, Mustang Island, Washington, DC, Glacier, Yellowstone, or NASA in either Alabama or Texas. They are currently leaning towards the Marine Institute on Catalina Island. They will bring a firm proposal to the October meeting.

### Consent Agenda

Minutes of August 13, 2018 were on the Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$23,857.66. Total Payroll = \$57,125.12.

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

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

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) –On Aug 1, 2018 - \$29,074.01 thru Aug 31, 2018 - \$29,594.01

Gary moved to approve the consent agenda with the correction of two typos in dates in the report. Steven seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

### Teacher Reports

Damian Gaglia talked about the language arts program purchased at the end of last year for the upper school. He is putting it into use, though right now there are a few technological issues. It’s an interactive program that gives individualized possibilities for each student to research their own interests. It also gives exposure to all the current online platforms.

Karry Betson also talked about the program as it was purchased for Kindergarten. It has engaging activities and also incorporates music for sound components of words.

### Principals Report – John Rouse

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**

- The goal of focusing on authentic literacy across all disciplines is to instill four simple habits of the minds for our students. These four intellectual standards are:
  - Read to infer/interpret/draw conclusions,
  - Support arguments with evidence,
  - Resolve conflicting views encountered in some documents, and
  - Solve complex problems with no obvious answer.
- At this point, some of the teachers are beginning to use the resources from our new ELA program. Although the program resources for all grade levels come from the same publisher, they distinguish the two programs by grades as for K-5 “CKLA” for Core Knowledge in Language Arts, and the parallel program for grades 6-8 is the “Amplify ELA”.

- As part of our comprehensive literacy grant, we are required to use an assessment system to measure student progress. We have selected the iStation system for this purpose. This will allow teachers to monitor student progress frequently using a computer-based system that will automatically adjust the level of difficulty based on the individual student's responses.

**• Budget and Finance**

- Last month the administration presented a graphical comparison of our expenditures and revenue amounts from 2017-18 to aid in our discussions of our budget for the 2018-19 school year. We corrected the data errors that were apparent on one of the charts. At this point in time, we have not distributed this information to the general public through on web site or other method.
- We are preparing to submit a grant to receive funding for some storage/recharging stations for some of our new technology.
- We receive some funding from the state to help offset a portion of the expenses that we have as a result of our special education program. Special Education is a federally-required program that, in my experience, has never been fully funded. By that I mean the local school district has to pay for some portions of special ed services out of our general fund or other sources.
- Potomac School is part of a special education cooperative (Missoula Area Education Cooperative). The purpose in participating in a coop is to help smaller districts provide for some of the special educational services that would be too expensive for a small district to fund. For example, we receive speech therapy and school psychology service currently through the coop.
- At our last board meeting, the board designated me to serve as our representative to the special education cooperative. I attended the Missoula Area Education Cooperative's board meeting last Wednesday. I have included in your board packet a copy of the coop's year-to-date expenditures for 2017-18 for your information. Later this month, I will be attending MCASE meeting in Bozeman. MCASE is the statewide organization that focuses on special education topics and needs. At this meeting, I plan to attend specific training sessions regarding special education funding with the hope of determining that we are receiving our maximum entitlement for special education.

**• Student Activities**

- Our flag football and girls' volleyball seasons will be starting this week. We have strong numbers of interested students in both areas.

**• Facilities**

- Our new custodian/maintenance person, Greg Stevens, has done a good job of preparing the buildings and grounds for our returning students and staff members.

**• Safety**

- The water faucet located adjacent to the athletic field does not have an arsenic filter on it; therefore, it is not approved for drinking purposes. At this point, we have disable the faucet and marked it as not for drinking. We will need to determine if we want to install a filter on the faucet at a cost of about \$400 or if the coaches can provide access to drinking water through water containers or other approaches.

**Board Professional Development Reports**

Steven and Craig have been attending Volleyball, Gary came to the 1<sup>st</sup> day and assembly, and Kelsy has been working with the 4H.

**Adjourn**

Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 8:26 pm.

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Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date