



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

For

April 8, 2019

Phone (406) 244-5581

Fax (406) 244-5840

www.potomacschoolmontana.us

“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 and Kelsy Ployhar. Jill Thornton, Clerk and John Rouse, Principal were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None

Consent Agenda

Minutes of March 11, 2019 were on the Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$46,359.38. Total Payroll = \$70,678.37

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

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

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) –On Mar 1, 2019 - \$38,311.93 thru Mar 31, 2019 - \$40,158.32

Kelsy moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

8th Grade Report

The 8th grade presented their current fundraising balance as well as estimated income from coming fundraisers.

Teacher Reports

Abby Stitt work through the MCLP grant this year has partially been focused on writing. K-8 has been working on the writing, through narratives, informational writing and then forming opinions. She has mapped out a continuum for when students should be starting a process and when they should be proficient in it. K thru 2 does not have overlap in this continuum, 3 thru 8 overlap with each student continuing through grades to proficiency. This is based on State Standards and rubrics are used for measuring progress.

Kristina Davis has been getting her students more involved in vocabulary. Not just memorizing definitions, but taking a word, talking about its use and creating their own definition. She is also working with students creating 3D printed animals, and designing their own phone case on the computer.

Principal's 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 are awaiting confirmation of our innovative grant award from OPI. We have been assured that we qualify; however, we do not know the level of funding available. Our plan is to enhance our current literacy initiative by integrating the performing arts, music, and movement into our literacy program. There are a number of research studies that show a strong correlation between movement and multi-sensory integration with literacy learning. Our goal would be to develop a model of sustainable integrated learning activities that will support and enhance student achievement in vocabulary, phonemic awareness, and overall reading comprehension.
- Our MCLP grant and the underlying authentic literacy program would not be successful without a dedicated and hard-working group of teachers and paraprofessionals. There will be an action item on this month's board agenda in which I will be recommending contracts for teachers. My decision to extend

contracts to our teachers was based on my observations of their efforts to provide the best possible instruction for our students. This year, in particular, the teaching staff worked diligently to implement our MCLP grant while simultaneously starting a new English language arts program.

• Budget and Finance

We are still waiting for of our final budget numbers for 2019-20 that are based on the figures released from the state. Our current numbers are preliminary because until the legislative session is over the values could change.

• Student Activities

- Our track season is now underway. A copy of the track schedule was included in your board packet in March. Our track coaches this year are Ike Wallace and Beth Copenhaver.

• Facilities

- The Board's facilities committee met to discuss the possibility of adding sidewalks around the south side of the main building in order to improve our accessibility for individuals in wheelchairs. The committee also discussed our recent facilities inspection report from our insurance carrier. A copy of the report is included in your board packet. Finally, the committee discussed the health department requirements concerning the kitchen facilities at the community center.

• Safety

- We had a staff member slip on some ice on the walkway while entering the building recently. The individual suffered a broken ankle and is working shortened days while the initial healing is underway.

Board Professional Development

Cliff and Kelsy have been working with the teachers on negotiations. Craig has been participating in 8th grade fundraisers. Gary has been reading about the legislature actions. Kelsy also completed the packet review with Jill.

School Board Calendar

Add a discussion of "What it means to be a Board Member" on the calendar in May. Also include it in December so it can be presented at the Christmas Program. Cliff would also like to see an agenda item to delay the January and April meetings to the second Tuesday instead of the second Monday.

Personnel

Based on Principal Rouse recommendation, Kelsy moved to hire Connie Buresh as a one on one aide for Special Ed. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

Based on Principal Rouse recommendation, Kelsy moved to rehire Karry Betson, Kristina Davis, Damian Gaglia, Terri Klein, Ashley Olsen, Sarah Schmill, Abby Stitt and Jennifer Vogel for the 2019-2020 school year. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

Based on Principal Rouse recommendation, Kelsy moved to rehire Jill Thornton as clerk of the board. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

Approval of Health Insurance Contract

Gary moved to approve the MUST Health Insurance Contract for the 2019-2020 School Year. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

Adjourn

Board Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 7:50 pm.