



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

April 9, 2018

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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

Trustee Gary Long called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Steven Van Grinsven and Craig Nelson. Principal Rouse, principal and Jill Thornton, Clerk were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda)

None

Consent Agenda

March 12, 2018 minutes included in this consent agenda.

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$32,315.98. Total Payroll = \$65,491.84.

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

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

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) – March 1, 2018 - \$32,554.38 thru March 31, 2018 - \$33,895.66

Steven moved to approve the consent agenda. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 3-0**

Student Council Report

No Report

Teacher Report

Kristina Davis brought the 7/8 grades on a field trip. They used critical thinking and problem solving to get out of a locked room and then wrote about the process. Then they went to the U of M physics department to see their superconductor and lasers. Next they learned about flying squirrels at the Flying Squirrel, learning about newton laws, the energy used and motion. The last field trip was to Seeley Lake for 5/6 graders to learn about bird banding.

Principals Report – John Rouse

- **Teaching and Learning**

- The teaching staff is continuing to review and discuss several different English Language Arts (ELA) program offerings in order to select one to serve as our main resource for a coherent ELA curriculum K-8. The staff has set a goal to make a final decision by April as to which publisher's materials to use. This is an important decision for our teachers because we do not currently have a coherent aligned ELA curriculum for grades K-8. While some grant funds can be used for portions of the cost of the new ELA series, there will still be a substantial cost to the school district for these resources and materials.
- Our accreditation status report was received from OPI recently. A copy of the report was included in the board packet. We received “Regular” accreditation status at each level. Congratulations to our teachers and students for their hard work.

- **Budget and Finance**

- **Adult Education-** Jennifer Vogel made a good effort to drum up some adult education programming for Potomac; however, the number of individuals who actually signed up for the sessions was low. We will likely be returning the remaining balance in our adult education funds to the taxpayers.
- **Special Education Support Grant-** I received a tentative approval for the special education support grant that I submitted to OPI. The grant should be worth about \$35,000 in reimbursable expenses that took place during the 2017-18 school year.

- **Student Activities**

- The girls' basketball season was successful. Congratulations to our coaches- Raynee Pace and Lyndi Oien and to the players. Our track has begun with their practices. Hopefully the snow will soon be gone from our track surface.

- **Safety**

- Our security cameras were installed recently. We will have a brief demonstration of how they function at our board meeting.
- We are planning to install a buzzer system for the front entry soon.
- The staff has scheduled fire drills, intruder drills and earthquake drills for the remainder of the school year.

- **Student Council**

- We will include a regular agenda item for our board meetings to allow the student council to give a monthly report on their activities and goals.

- **Community**

- Mr. Rouse has been working with Jim Howard, the superintendent from Bonner to prepare a collaborative application for a 21st Century Grant for 2018-19. The application deadline was extended to April 30th for these competitive grants; therefore, we will most likely not know whether or not our grant was approved until after our May board meeting. Other collaborative partners in grant include: the Community Center Board, the Boys and Girls Club from Bonner and the Missoula Public Library.
- We are scheduling and ALL School Parent-Student Workday on Saturday, April 21st, from 8:00 to noon. The objective of the Workday is to complete our playground improvement project. We plan to add wood chips under the existing swing set, replace and repair broken and damaged boards on the bleachers and the large wooden play structures, add additional gravel to the track surface, and cleanup the baseball infield. I would like to recommend that the Board consider allocating some of the "left over" 8th grade class funds from previous years to this year's 8th grade class for their trip if the 8th graders and their parents participate in the April 21st Workday.
- Thus far we have funding for this playground project from a Missoula County Parks grant (\$7,500), the PTC (\$1,500)- a portion of which was raised through the "Pennies for the Playground" collection, and Home Depot (various supplies). A parent has also volunteered to bring a front-end loader to help with the project.
- The following will be needed for the playground project:
 - A few wheelbarrows, shovels, and racks.
 - The use of a road grader or blade to spread the gravel on the track.
 - The use of someone's pickup to haul materials from Home Depot.
 - Manual labor to cut boards, fasten new boards to bleachers and playground equipment, and to spread wood chips and gravel.

Clerks Report

We have two community members that have applied to volunteer on the board, Gary Long and Thomas Brown, so the election will be held.

Board Professional Development Reports

Craig attended the Poetry and Pie, and Gary reviewed the board packet.

School Board Calendar

No updates

Approval of Health Insurance Contract

Craig moved to approve the MUST Health Insurance Contract for the 2018-2019 year. Steven seconded the motion.
Passed 3-0

Adjourn

Trustee Long adjourned the Board meeting at 7:50 pm.

Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date