# Trout Creek School District #6

# Meeting Minutes

3/8/2022

**In Attendance:** Mike Linderman, Board Chair; Zach Hannum, Board Member; Eric Viviano, Vice Chair; Scott Rasor, Board Member; Preston Wenz, Superintendent; Jennifer McPherson, District Clerk; Staff Members: Donn Morris, Dave Sorenson, Taylor Etienne, Jennifer Adair, Veronica Colyer, Alicia Myers, Sarah Boroquez, Craig Barrus, Renna Mummert; Community Members: Sara Dana, Janaya Ingersoll, Beth Loyd, Art & Kathy Hassan, Marian Stonehocker, Rudy Yoder, John Buckingham, Brian Krick, Bev Brumbaugh, Craig Sior, and Allie Viviano.

**I. Call to order**

Mr. Linderman called to order the special meeting of the Trout Creek School Board at 5:33 pm on 3/8/2022 at Trout Creek School.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Linderman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comment**

Mr. Linderman asked for public comment.

1. Mrs. Etienne read two letters to the Board from Meredith Sterling and Libby Swanson stating their opinions about the considered Kinder and Early Kinder combination class.
2. Mr. Barrus asked if there is a current cap for incoming kids in the Early Kinder program. It was answered, yes, there is. The cap is 15 and we are at 14, not recruiting at this time.
3. Marian Stonehocker stated that there is a big difference between 3 year olds and 5 year old. Mr. Wenz stated there wasn’t going to be any 3 year olds in the K/EK class if it comes to fruition.
4. Mrs. Viviano also disagreed with the combination class.
5. Beth Loyd feels her child has had regression since the 3 yr olds have joined the Early Kinder program.
6. Mr. Morris shared his feelings on how he feels things have gone on this year again.
7. Mrs. Stonehocker asked if the time change of the meeting time was posted anywhere but on the current agenda. Mr. Linderman accepted responsibility for the poor communication with the public.
8. Mr. Viviano apologized for the locked doors and time miscommunication. He also asked that everyone interested and involved come to the meeting and say what you want to say.
9. Ms. Myers stated that she was speaking as a parent with 3 children in the district and as a staff member, that she has taken several issues to Mr. Wenz and not had any problems with being able to share exactly how she feels about things. She encouraged everyone to reach out to him, go to him, sit down and chat if you have any thoughts or concerns.

**IV. Motion to Approve the Agenda as Presented**

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Viviano

**On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

**V. Motion to Approve the Minutes from 2/8/22, 2/15/22, 2/22/22, and 2/24/22**

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Rasor

**On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

**VI.**  **Administrative Update**

Mr. Wenz reported on the following:

**Attendance**

Enrollment 72

Overall 92%

K 92%

1 90%

2 92%

3 89%

4 98%

5 81%

6 89%

7 93%

8 87%

**Facilities**

* #6 is done with the initial part of the remodel
* Still some work on #6 (bathroom, kitchen, and some outside work)
* Recommending to help out a staff member who needs a place to stay - Sarah B and her son - they have been “house hopping” - would be out early June - minimal furniture & items - we would charge her $350 per month while she was there - would go towards rent, electric, and internet
* Will be creating a list with Craig of summer projects to complete
* Leak from the rain in 5/6 & 7/8 room
* 3 Roof bids are before you for review and possible approval - all three will be available in the meeting for questions
* McKinstry formal proposal to come back out and look at HVAC in more detail is before you for review

**Academics**

* State testing window is open - staff meeting Friday to lock in dates we will test - discussions to this point lead to it will be the week before the window closes
* 3rd quarter ends April 5
* Yvonne Fields continues to observe teachers about twice a month

**Extracurriculars**

* Took 1st and 2nd place in County Spelling Bee
* Had three top 3 finishers in the archery tournament in Arlee
* ESTEAM Club starting in April

Volunteers Craig and Amanda Sior will be helping with that

**VII**. **Custodial & Maintenance Update**

Mr. Barrus reported the following:

Roof - Awaiting Board decision on bidding.

Flooring

* Still no bids turned in for the upstairs.
* Strongly recommends pulling the downstairs carpet and polishing the concrete.

Septic

Limping along, need perforated pipe in drainfield replaced.

Kitchen-

Wiring and load issues are scheduled to be done in two weeks when Mike gets back from his dad's funeral.

Security

Having issues with theft. I recommend replacing the 6 classroom door locks with keyless entry; most could use replacement anyway. They run about $120 each at Home Depot. I can install and program them.

Fire inspection

We passed our fire inspection with no corrections or infractions.

Parking lot

The parking lot is trashed; the patches are floating away.

Fence and Right of Way

* Fence on the southeast corner of the property needs to be fixed by Ms. Leisz or Pardee.
* Also would like to open up the easement there that would allow us to back up to the back door or elevator for deliveries.

Outside Security

We now have external keyless entry for the front and back door to the main building and the front door of the gym. Your personal entry number gives access to all.

Gym Issues

* Handicap ramp to the gym needs to be replaced.
* Entryway to the gym needs to be remodeled. The floor rotting is out at the bottom of the stairs. This is an unfinished project from last summer that was approved.

Teacherages

#6 - Everything is complete and inspected except the bathroom and kitchen.

#8 - Needs a new stove/oven. Current one is old and not working properly.

VIII. **District Clerk Update**

Ms. McPherson gave the financial report and answered questions from the Board.

IX. **Discussion (D) and Action (A) Items:**

1. Roof Bids (D, A) - Representatives from Buckingham Roofing, Black Castle Roofing, Dad’s Construction presented their bids and answered questions from the Board about their planned approach and completion of the roofing project. Discussion ensued regarding the information presented. Board decided to **TABLE** the item until Mr. Wenz contacted the insurance company to see if they would cover any percentage of it.
2. CBA (D,A) - Mrs. Etienne presented the preliminary proposal for the CBA negotiations. Board decided to **TABLE** this item for additional information from the business manager.
3. Staff Contracts (D, A) - Mr. Wenz recommended staff members for 1 year contract for School Year 2022-2023. The names and votes went as follows:

Donn Morris: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Hannum. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Taylor Etienne: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Jolynn Hanson: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Vivianor; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

David Sorenson: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Barbara Mosher: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Alicia Myers: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. Mr. Linderman recused himself from the vote. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Veronica Colyer: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Viviano. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Alicia Wenz: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Viviano. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Elizabeth Glackin: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Viviano. Mr. Hannum recused himself from

the vote. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Gabriele Ohning: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Paige Buchan: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Rosa Toretta: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. Also in favor: Mr. Linderman. Opposed: Mr. Viviano. **Motion Carried.**

Alexis Fausett: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman; 2nd: Mr. Rasor. Also in favor: Mr. Hannum. Opposed: Mr. Viviano. **Motion Carried.**

Craig Barrus: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Viviano. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Renna Mummert: Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Viviano; 2nd: Mr. Hannum. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

Stephanie Wortley: **TABLED**, awaiting information from Montana Small School Alliance re: librarian certification.

Mr. Wenz recommended a staff member for non-renewal. The name and votes went as follows:

Jennifer Adair: Before the action was read, there were many questions from the Board relating to why Mrs. Adair was being recommended for non-renewal. Mr. Wenz stated Mrs. Adair was offered the ⅞ grade position and declined. Mr. Wenz was asked what the plan was for a Kindergarten teacher then. Mr. Wenz stated he is moving Mrs. Wenz into that position due to her being fully licensed and certified. Mr. Krick asked what the plan was for “check and balance” regarding Mr. Wenz and Mrs. Wenz since they are married. Mr. Wenz stated that Mrs. Wenz will undergo her observations with an administrator from another district, as well as Yvonne Field from OPI if she is still assisting with instructional delivery. Mr. Wenz stated, and Mrs. Adair confirmed, that Mrs. Adair had not completed any classes towards her certification in the almost 2 years since receiving the provisional license. Mrs. Adair explained that she did not want to put herself into that much debt to become certified as a licensed teacher. She also stated that she was waiting for Montana to come out with guidance on certification updates to see if she qualifies. When asked if there were any other reasons why non-renewal, Mr. Wenz reminded the Board that some answers to that question are related to performance and performance cannot be discussed in an open session. Mr. Hannum stated that the Board needs to rely on Mr. Wenz since that is who they hired as the Administrator. Mr. Wenz stated he is looking long-term, placing and keeping certified people in certified positions. Mr. Hannum then reiterated that the Board needs to rely on Mr. Wenz to do his job. Mr. Hannum stated the District needs to get the most out of taxpayer money and voiced his concern about retention. At this time Mr. Linderman read the action. No motion was made. Mr. Rasor asked if this matter could be tabled until they can come up with another solution. Mr. Wenz stated the other option is 7th/8th grade and Mrs. Adair has already declined it. Mr. Wenz then stated that the only other option would be Mrs. Adair moving to the Early Kinder program, but that it is a classified position contract. Mr. Linderman then asked what Mr. Wenz’s recommendation to the Board was. Mr. Wenz stated that he would like to change his non-renewal to a 1 year classified contract for the Early Kinder program for Mrs. Adair.

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Hannum. **On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. EK Surveys (D) - Mr. Wenz presented the surveys received back from Early Kinder parents. They were all positive, with one “Needs Improvement” with one recommendation on it.
2. MTSBA membership (D,A) - Mr. Wenz proposed that Trout Creek School drop MTSBA and employ Mrs. Elizabeth Kavela for our Policy Maintenance and Representation.

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Viviano

**On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. EAASE Program (D,A) - The Eagles and Animal Science Education program was introduced by Mr. Wenz. There was discussion around the benefit of having kids around animals and the education that can come from hands-on experience building into lessons. There were concerns around animal containment and liability.

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; **Motion was not made.**

1. Security camera approval (D,A) - Mr. Sorenson presented the bids for the security cameras and answered questions from the Board re: data storage, placement, and cost vs benefit. The Board favored the less expensive option with Mr. Sorenson’s support.

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum; 2nd: Mr. Rasor

**On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. Water Line (D) - **TABLED**
2. #6 Rental Tenant (D,A) - Mr. Wenz recommends giving Ms. Bohorquez a lease for #6 Teacherage for the remainder of her time in Trout Creek. She will use gym facilities for showers until Maintenance installs the shower. Rent amount to be $350.00 per month.

Action Read By: Mr. Linderman; Motion Made By: Mr. Rasor; 2nd: Mr. Hannum

**On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. [McKinstry (D, A)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FahALAU4R8HJtdqAxM3gQ3onn_MYZdfj/view?usp=sharing) - **TABLED**
2. [Policy 2311 Update (D) - 1st Reading](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ueWB0rvzUseF1bpsx1k-2DJpaCvWd6Nr/view?usp=sharing) - **First Reading occured on 3/8/2022.**

**X. Adjournmen**t – Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer McPherson, District Clerk Date

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Michael Linderman, Board Chair Date