# Trout Creek School District #6 Board Meeting Minutes

3/14/2023

**In Attendance:** Scott Rasor, Chair; Carolyn Nesbitt, Vice Chair; Bryant Eaton, Trustee; Michael Linderman, Trustee; Zachary Hannum, Trustee; Preston Wenz, Superintendent; Jennifer McPherson, District Clerk; Staff Members: David Sorenson, Elizabeth Hart, Debra Cashman, Taylor Etienne, Alicia Wenz, Renna Mummert, Dave Eldridge, Veronica Colyer, ; Community Members: Mickey Manning, Allie Viviano, Kaitlyn & Rob Purdy, Samuel Wenz, Marian Stonehocker, Monte Nesbitt, Dustin Albright, Doug Cooper, Darren Wortley, Stephanie Wortley, Carrie Greene, Lorilee Cuvillier, Gerald “Frenchy” Cuvillier, Rhonda Cuvillier, Ed Cashman, Paul & Bonnie Chambers, Yvonne Stevenson, Carolyn Pierson, Robert Pierson, Callie Lackner, Nancy Mehaffie, Mary Reed, and Ruth Allen.

**I. Call to order**

Mr. Rasor called to order the meeting of the Trout Creek School Board at 6:03 pm on 3/14/2023 at Trout Creek School.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Rasor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Rasor asked for public comment:

Mrs. Etienne thanked the Whitepine Grange and Mr. & Mrs. Nesbitt for their generous donations to the classroom libraries.

Ed Cashman, husband of teacher, Mrs. Cashman, stated he felt that a few Board decisions lately leads him to believe they want the school shut down.

Kate Hardman wrote a letter to the Board in support of Mr. Wenz.

Nancy Mehaffie shared that since seeing the archery team practices, she had purchased archery equipment and is now participating in it herself.

Frenchy Cuvillier spoke in favor and support of Mr. Wenz and voiced his displeasure with the Board in regards to their decision not to extend Mr. Wenz’s contract.

Mr. Rasor took a moment to address the public. Mr. Rasor stated that he would like to clear up any misunderstandings and stated that the Board did not say that they were not going to extend Mr. Wenz’s contract. He further explained that Mr. Wenz was granted a 1-year contract, as normal, for his first year. In March of 2022, more than three months prior to the end of Mr. Wenz’s one-year contract, the Board decided to extend to Mr. Wenz an additional 2 years on his contract. Last month, when Mr. Wenz requested an additional two years on top of his already two year extended contract, the Board decided that since Mr. Wenz was only 8 months into the 2-year extension granted in March of 2022, the Board would decline to consider another extension at that time. Mr. Rasor assured the public that the Board fully intends to review all of the good things, and all the things being said tonight, in conjunction with Mr. Wenz’s performance at a later time and will consider extending the contract based on his performance review.

Callie Lackner and Stephanie Wortley both spoke of their own experiences under Mr. Wenz’s supervision when they worked for the District the previous school year.

Yvonne Stevenson shared that her special needs granddaughter, who transferred to the District last school year, has been doing wonderfully and is happy here.

Dave Roberts spoke up in favor and support of all the extra-curricular programs.

Monte Nesbitt spoke in favor and support of the School Board.

Samuel Wenz spoke in favor and support of his father, Mr. Wenz.

Debra Cashman spoke in favor and support of Mr. Wenz and stated that communication is a 2-way street.

Marian Stonehocker spoke as a community member and as a person who has been involved with the school for over 30 years. Mrs. Stonehocker shared her concern with the disrespect being shown to the Board, particularly on social media. Mrs. Stonehocker reminded everyone that no matter their position, the bottom line is we all want the same thing: a good, safe, healthy learning environment for the children. Ms. Stonehocker also reiterated Mr. Rasor’s statement that yes, a lot of good things are happening at Trout Creek School, but the Board also has to be attentive to the things that are not public knowledge. There is a School Board election coming up, maybe we will see changes.

Mr. Rasor thanked the speakers and stated that he is committed to the staff and students of Trout Creek School.

Mr. Linderman stated that the Board is legally allowed to review and potentially extend the administrator’s contract at any time.

Mary Reed asked what the procedure is for investigations into reported actions by students. Mr Wenz stated that there is always an investigation into reports and that while the District usually cannot speak of the events and/or investigations due to student confidentiality, the District will notify all parents if it is warranted, but otherwise cannot and will not.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda as Presented**

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

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

**V. Approval of the Warrants**

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

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

**VI. Approval of the Minutes from 2/13/2023, 2/13/23, and 2/21/2023**

Mr. Eaton presented Policy 1240, with special attention to the sentence that reads, “Each trustee shall visit every school (except in 1st class districts) at least once per year to examine it’s management, conditions, and needs.”

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

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

**VII. Administrative Report**

Mr. Wenz reported on the following:

Enrollment - 69

Attendance

* Overall 83%
* High Grade 88.4% EK
* We survived multiple rounds of strep and the flu

Academics

* State testing training March 30 at 3:30pm
* State testing April 17-21
* We will begin developing a more structured scope and sequence for curriculum based off of the new resources very soon

Facilities

* Going to meet with Dave over the next 2 days to put together a transition plan for the next Maintenance Supervisor

Extracurricular

* NASP archery team heads to first ever state tournament in Helena on March 27 & 28
* @26 archers going
* Track practice begins next week and there is a parent/student meeting this Thursday at 3:30pm for track
* We have gained permission to use the Thompson Falls track and will do so two days per week

**VIII. Maintenance Report**

Mr. Wenz reported that he will be meeting with Mr. Eldridge over the next 2 days to put together a transition plan for the next Maintenance Supervisor.

**IX. District Clerk Update**

1. Financial Report - Ms. McPherson provided financial reports to the Board and answered questions from Board Members. Ms. McPherson shared with the Board her upcoming surgery date and stated she will keep the Board apprised of any further information.

**X. Discussion (D) & Action (A) Items**

1. **Safety Policy - 2nd Reading -** Mr. Wenz presented the Safety Policy for its second reading with no changes made to the draft. Discussion was had regarding Board Member access to the school.

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

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

1. **Transportation Bid -** **TABLED**
2. **HVAC Grant Update -**  Mr. Wenz informed the Board that the Concept Submission for the HVAC grant that the District is pursuing came back as “discouraged.” His question to the Board is do they want to continue to pursue even though it came in as discouraged? Consensus was reached that the HVAC upgrade is of the utmost importance, perhaps the ask was too great, and to go ahead and submit for the actual grant despite the discouragement. Mrs. Nesbitt committed to assisting with the grant request. No action was taken.

**D. Partial District Reimbursement for Volunteer Background Checks -** **TABLED**

**E. Superintendent Goals - TABLED**

**F. Superintendent Contract Addundum -**

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

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

**G. Clerk Contract -** **TABLED**

**H. Staff Contracts -** Mr. Wenz recommended the following staff for FY24 Employment Contracts:

| Name | Position | Vote Record (Call, 1st, 2nd, etc) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alicia Wenz | Kindergarten | SR, ML, BE, CN opposed |
| Veronica Barrera-Colyer | 1st/2nd grade | SR, CN, BE, unanimous |
| Debra Cashman | 3rd/4th grade | SR, ZH, BE, unanimous |
| Taylor Etienne | Special Education | SR, CN, ZH, unanimous |
| Gabriele Ohning | Administrative Assistant | SR, ML, BE, unanimous |
| David Sorenson | IT Coordinator | SR, ML, CN, unanimous |
| Renna Mummert | Food Services Director | SR, CN, ML, unanimous |
| Paige Buchan | Assistant Cook | SR, BE, ML, unanimous |
| Danielle Bednarcik | PT Night Custodian | SR, ZH, BE, unanimous |
| Barbara Mosher | Counselor | SR, CN, ML, unanimous |
| Rebecca Doyle | Paraprofessional | SR, BE, ML, unanimous |
| Kimberly Johnson | Paraprofessional | SR, CN, BE, unanimous |
| Rosa Torretta | Paraprofessional | SR, ZH, CN, unanimous |
| Elizabeth Glackin | Paraprofessional | SR, ML, BE, ZH recused himself |
| Sheryl Robinett | EK Prog. Man. Instr. Para | SR, ML, BE, unanimous |

**I. Academic Calendar -** **TABLED**

**J. Personnel Resignation -** Mr. Wenz reported that he accepted two Resignations on behalf of the Board for employees Dave Eldridge and Elizabeth Hart. Mr. Eldridge’s last day will be 3/17/2023. Ms. Hart will finish out the school year.

**K. Nurse Stipend -** Mr.. Wenz requested that the Board approve an annual $500.00 nursing stipend to Gabriele Ohning in the absence of a school nurse.

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

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

**XII. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

1. Transportation Bid

2. Background check Reimbursement

3. Sup goals

4. Clerk contract

5. Calendar

**XII. Adjournmen**t – Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer McPherson, District Clerk Date

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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D. Scott Rasor, Board Chair Date