

Trout Creek School District #6 Board Meeting Minutes

5/9/2023

In Attendance: Scott Rasor, Carolyn Nesbitt, Zachary Hannum, Michael Linderman, Marian Stonehocker, Monte Nesbitt, David Sorenson, Preston Wenz, Jennifer McPherson, Veronica Barrera-Colyer, Taylor Etienne, Paige Buchan, Ruth Allen, Rob Purdy, Beckie Doyle, McKenna Wallace, Lisa Wadsworth, Teresa Meager, Steve Freerksen, Renna Mummurt, Carrie Greene, Sara Hannum, Michael Boys, Samantha Swatman, Chantel Schmidt, Bev Brumbaugh, Cheryl Androes, Dan Androes, Art & Kathy Hassan, Kaitlyn Purdy, Debra Cashman, Michelle Manning.

I. Call to order

Mr. Rasor called to order the regular and organizational meeting of the Trout Creek School Board at 6:24 pm on 5/9/2023 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:

Ms. Buchan addressed the Board, stating she is only at the meeting because of a specific incident she observed and would like to know if anything has happened. Mr. Rasor asked if it had been submitted to the Administrator. Ms. Buchan stated it had not. Mr. Rasor stated it needs to go through Administration. Ms. McPherson reminded that Board that policy reads if it is a Sexual Harassment complaint, it goes directly to the Board. Ms. Buchan stated she will resubmit on the proper form. Mr. Linderman told Ms. Buchan that if she simply attaches what she has already submitted to the proper form, that will suffice. No need to write it all over again.

Shantel Schmidt addressed the Board to show her support of Mr. Wenz. She shared she would like to know which Board members do not support renewing Mr. Wenz's contract. Mr. Rasor explain to Ms. Schmidt what he explained to the attendees at the last meeting:

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. In February, 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 by parents, staff, and community members, in conjunction with Mr. Wenz's performance at a later time and will consider extending the contract based on his performance review.

Ms. Schmidt asked the Board where the support is. Mr. Hannum stated that the District had its transportation company come in and ask for an extension and the District did not choose to vote on that. He stated he thinks that the Board is being very consistent. Mr. Hannum also stated that he thinks if people come and listen to what is actually happening, they would be better informed. Ms. Schmidt then asked if there was a Parent-Teacher orientation. Mrs. Colyer stated that there is not, but it is something that they've tried to do for a few years. Mrs. Stonehocker stated that they happened when her children attended TCSD. Ms. Schmidt stated she wants her children to be surrounded by positive structure and good people and she will homeschool if the District does not provide it. Mrs. Nesbitt thanked Ms. Schmidt and commended her for raising her daughter the way she is.

Samantha Swatman shared that her daughter is new here and that she was not supported by the previous school district they were at. She stated if Mr. Wenz leaves the District, she will also homeschool. Mr. Rasor thanked Ms. Swatman for her statement.

Carrie Greene shared an observation with the Board. She stated that public education appears to be at a turning point right now, making people wonder if they are worth it. She is seeing good things happen at Trout Creek School. She shared that she greatly appreciated the Constitution Bowl, in which one TCSD student participated. She would like to see more students participate in those activities. Mr. Hannum stated he thinks that there are a lot of good things happening at TCSD. Mr. Linderman stated that public schools are greatly underfunded and the solution to that is more time spent in Helena at the State and Federal level to advocate for public education.

Ruth Allen shared that it was her daughter that participated in the Constitution Bowl and that Shaylyn came in 2nd place. She also shared grave concerns about improper behaviors and manners happening on the buses, in classrooms, and even on the playground. She also opined that the upper grade students have zero accountability from their teacher concerning their inappropriate behaviors.

Renna Mummert shared with the Board that she feels Ms. Buchan deserved a lot more respect than what she got. She worked hard for this school and brought great ideas to the Kitchen. She asked the Board why Administration has not come to her, as the supervisor of Ms. Buchan, to discuss her leaving the District. Mrs. Mummert also asked why she

hasn't heard anything from anyone regarding the sexual harassment complaint filed? Mr. Razor stated that the Board just gave Ms. Buchan some guidance on that matter and he hopes she takes it. Mrs. Mummert thanked Mr. Razor and stated she just expected more after something like that and that Ms. Buchan worked very hard for the school. Mr. Wenz stated he knew why Ms. Buchan left employ at TCSD because she sent him a letter. Mrs. Mummert then asked Mr. Wenz why he felt it was unimportant to discuss it with the head of the department. Mr. Wenz stated he was not going to discuss it here in open session. Mr. Razor agreed. Mr. Razor thanked all the speakers again. Mr. Linderman took a moment to address Mrs. Mummert, stating in situations like what happened that prompted Ms. Buchan's departure, it is the Board's job to take action only when the event is brought before the Board as a whole. He stated there are resources available to the Board to help them navigate the situation.

- IV. Approval of the Agenda as Presented** *This item is an addition made at the meeting. Mr. Hannum brought to attention that the agenda did not have the approval of the agenda band the Maintenance report and requested they be added. After the correction was made, the action was called to approve the amended agenda. Action Read By: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mrs. Nesbitt; 2nd: Mr. Linderman.
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

After the Board approved the amendment, the action was called to approve the agenda as corrected.

Action Read By: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman; 2nd: Mrs. Nesbitt.
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

- V. Approval of the Warrants**
Mr. Linderman asked how much fuel oil for the gym has cost the District this year. Ms. McPherson stated so far in FY23, it has cost \$8,393.36. Action Read By: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mrs. Nesbitt; 2nd: Mr. Hannum
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Approval of the Minutes from 4/11/23**
Action Read By: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mrs. Nesbitt; 2nd: Mr. Linderman.
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

- VII. Administrative Report**
Mr. Wenz reported on the following:

Attendance/Enrollment

- Enrollment 69
- Overall attendance 84% Highest class attendance 91%

Start of the year enrollment

- 69 (Aug 29-Sept 10)
- We did hit an enrollment of 75 this year
- ANB average for the year is 74

Academics

- State testing is over
- We had only 2 students not test and they both were opted out by parents
- OPI was here to observe a morning of testing (report attached) Accountability ratings are in: 7/8 is at ADVICE, K-6 is at DEFICIENCY.

Keep in mind that:

- The state has frozen accountability ratings since covid until now
- I have found possible evidence of assistance given to students during district AND state testing, which would have skewed scores and could have had student scores invalidated (see copy of email from OPI's Assessment Office)
- These ratings deal with certification issues that we are aware of and will have fixed

- In between Missoula Children's Theater practices, we are still delivering academics this week and will continue through the end of the year

Dates coming up:

- MCT performances this Friday at 3pm and 5:30pm
- Activities Awards Banquet Tuesday, May 16 - dinner at 5:30pm with awards to follow - at Lakeside Event Center
- Forest service Day with Smokey the Bear is May 22
- Graduation ceremony (K & 8 together) May 24 at 2pm in the gym

Personnel -

- 5/6 and SpEd positions are advertised on OPI and MSSA
- Interviews will be held coming up ASAP

HVAC Grant

- Still no decision

Ms. Colyer asked about the Bike Rodeo. Mr. Wenz stated that they didn't have any days they could fit it in. Mr. Razor asked when it was held last year. Mrs. Colyer provided that date. Mr. Hannum reminded that we need to make sure the District is thinking about safety of the students on the ride. Mrs. Stonehocker stated she wants to see this happen this year as it is an important activity to the students. Mr. Linderman informed Mr. Wenz that he wants to see this activity happen and to make sure it does. Mr. Wenz stated that this year the students would not be riding as far as the campground. He also stated he has some ideas for increasing security for the event, including contacting Cabinet Ridge Riders, parents, and community members who have ATVs and UTVs that

could ride beside and behind the students so they are more noticeable by drivers. Mrs. Stonehocker and Mrs. Nesbitt concurred with Mr. Linderman about the activity needing to happen.

VIII. Maintenance Report

Mr. Boys reported the following:

- Plumber out on 05/08 for P-traps at bottle fill stations.
- Ordered new spindle for mower due to far right spindle shearing caused by failed bearing.
- Ordered new ignition coil for weed eater due to failure.
- Found all caps off of leach line runs, will be replaced with new.
- Something caused the door to come off of the baseball house, and will be replaced.
- Inspections
- Had a retail food establishment inspection, got hit for sewer gasses coming from bottle fill stations. Inspector wanted a licensed plumber to do repairs. Reached out to Ty with Home Essentials Master Services LLC.

Trainings

Finished UST training, now certified in fuel delivery, Class A operator for Underground storage tank, and Class B operator for underground storage tank.

There was discussion regarding the fenceline being free of long grass. The District would like to have some options and related costs at the next meeting.

IX. District Clerk Update

- A. Financial Report - Ms. McPherson provided financial reports to the Board and answered questions from Board Members.

X. Reorganization of the Board

- A. Board Chair - Mr. Linderman nominated Mr. Razor to remain Board Chair. Mr. Razor accepted.
Nomination accepted by: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman; 2nd: Mrs. Stonehocker.

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

- B. Board Vice-Chair - Mr. Linderman nominated Mrs. Nesbitt to remain Board Vice-Chair. Mrs. Nesbitt accepted.
Action Read By: Mr. Razor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman; 2nd: Mr. Hannum

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

- C. Appointment of District Clerk - The Board appointed Ms. McPherson as District Clerk for FY24. Lisa Wadsworth swore Ms. McPherson in.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman; 2nd: Mr. Hannum
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

XI. Discussion (D) & Action (A) Items

- A. **CBA MOU** - Mr. Rasor discussed missing prep periods which is a violation of the CBA. He stated we want to remain flexible but we do have a CBA to adhere to. Mrs. Colyer stated "It is not our intent to get compensated. Our goal is to solve the issues, planning, scheduling, communication, etc. These missed preps can be eliminated by communication, pre-planning, and action." Mr. Hannum asked if the MOU will be sufficient. Mr. Linderman stated that these things don't come up unless there is an issue. Mrs. Colyer stated we need something to make this work. There are ways around losing preps. For example, her husband is a teacher in Hot Springs. If teachers in the Hot Springs School District miss their prep to help cover another class or whatever is needed, they earn a personal day after so many periods that they cover to make a day. They have periods there, so if they cover 6 periods, they earn an extra personal day. Mrs. Stonehocker asked for examples of recent missed preps. Mrs. Colyer provided an example but stated she really cannot talk about them in open session as it is regarding performance and she wants to honor that that should be dealt with in closed session. Mr. Rasor asked what adequate communication regarding missing preps would look like. Mrs. Colyer stated that, as an example, when the EMTs were here in the morning, instead of bringing our own classes, one teacher could have brought them all instead of all the teachers missing their preps. There is 15 minutes at the end of the teacher's work day that they can discuss the next day's issues, if needed, so that people don't miss preps. Mrs. Nesbitt stated she would like to hear Mr. Wenz's explanation. Mr. Wenz stated "We can do better. Didn't know it was an issue." Mr. Hannum stated his concern is this is a management issue and should be tied in to expectations for the administrator. Mrs. Colyer reminded the Board that this is a violation to the CBA. Mrs. Doyle shared with the Board that the District is not fully staffed which makes it difficult to cover within in order to make sure teachers get their preps. Mrs. Colyer confirmed Mrs. Doyle's statement. Mr. Hannum stated that is what he means. Mr. Wenz stated that there are 4 teachers not present and this item should be tabled. Mrs. Colyer reminded the Board that this is a grievable offense but the Union does not want it to get to that point and would rather just come up with a resolution to the problem. She also stated she does not understand why afternoon preps are being intentionally canceled just because the morning preps were missed. Mrs. Nesbitt stated there are ways to work around this. Mr. Linderman stated the District needs to run this through Legal for their guidance. - **TABLED**

- B. Transportation Contract Awardance** - The Transportation Committee recommended the District accept Mosher Transportation bid for the Transportation Contract.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mrs. Nesbitt; 2nd: Mrs. Stonehocker. Mr. Linderman recused himself from the vote.
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously by those who voted.
- C. Staff Recommendation for FY24** - Mr. Wenz recommended Ms. Jo Hanson for a teaching contract.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman ; 2nd: Mrs. Nesbitt
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.
- D. Hanson Pay** - Mr. Wenz shared with the Board that when Ms. Hanson began working for the District, the administrator at that time did not recognize Ms. Hanson's years of teaching at a Private school and was placed on the matrix at a lower amount of years credited. Mr. Wenz recommended that the Board recognize additional years of teaching experience. Mrs. Nesbitt asked if that previous position was credentialed. Mr. Linderman stated, yes, she was certified. We also need to keep in mind that this sets a precedent. Mrs. Nesbitt asked if the Board could approve 50% credit and stated she would be ok with moving Ms. Hanson to step 9. Mr. Hannum mentioned that Ms. Hanson accepted three previous contracts with TCSD at specific steps. Mrs. Nesbitt recognized that to be true. Motion was called to give Ms. Hanson credit for an additional two years only of teaching experience.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mr. Linderman ; 2nd: Mrs. Nesbitt
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.
- E. Rental House Rent Amount - TABLED.**
- F. Clerk Permission** - Ms. McPherson requested permission from the Board to make any year end funds transfers necessary to close FY23.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum ; 2nd: Mrs. Nesbitt
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.
- G. June Board Meeting Date** - Ms. McPherson reminded the Board that she would not be here for the June Board meeting. The Board opted to change the date to June 12, 2023.
Action Read By: Mr. Rasor; Motion Made By: Mr. Hannum ; 2nd: Mr. Linderman
On the poll of the Board, the motion carried unanimously.

