

Swan River School District #4
1205 Swan Hwy
Bigfork, MT 59911

October 9, 2018

The Swan River School Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, October 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the sixth-grade room to consider business to come before the board. Brooke Johnston, Board Chair presided over the entire meeting.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Brooke Johnston, Luke Adamson, Dan Elwell, Nels Hammack and Patricia Landon

TRUSTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Principal Marc Bunker, District Clerk Dee Johnson, Mike Close, Liz Richmond, Sherianne Schow, Eve Darling, Brandy Opfar, Marshelle Wade, Sherry Bradstreet, Shelley Emslie & Sue Stephens.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion to approve agenda for October 9, 2018 and Minutes from September 10, 2018

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

Correspondence:

Public Participation:

PTO Report: Fall festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be held outside if weather permits

Teacher organization: The annual Veterans assembly will be held on November 12, 2018

Committee Report: Safety committee: The safety committee met and discussed improvements for safety & security and talked about volunteers & background checks. The committee recommends having all volunteers have a background check. Pertains to policy #5420 #5122

ACTION ITEMS:

A: Appoint new Trustee Patricia Landon

Welcome new board Trustee Patricia Landon to fill in the remainder of term replacing Cynthia Norred. Up for re-election in May 2019

Motion to appoint Patricia Landon as trustee who has been sworn in by Jack Eggenberger, Flathead County Superintendent of schools

Motion: Dan Elwell

Seconded: Nels Hammack

Passed unanimously

B: Revisit pursuing 4-day school week

The committee on standard school days, weeks, year has met 3 times, there are currently 18 members consisting of a mixture of staff, parents, trustees & Principal Marc Bunker.

Committee Concerns: Child care, curriculum quality, enrollment, extra curricular activities, instructional time, cut to classified hours, contract time for Certified. Talked about another possible survey with other avenues explored, for example a 4-day school week, 6-hour school day, with more days in the summer. Some discussion that this is not the best time to pursue this matter. Dan asked Marcs opinion. Marc feels the committee has been really productive and appreciates everyone but feels this is probably not the best time to pursue looking into a 4-day week. Sheriane expressed concern about dissolving committees. Board assured her that committees will not be dissolved and that the committee on the standard school days, weeks, year, will just be put on hold for awhile, Brooke feels the curriculum should be addressed with Test scores indicating that Math and Reading are not proficient. Talking with some parents and community she feels Kindergarten is lacking in reading and that math needs to be improved. Luke feels that his children all benefited from Kindergarten but feels we do need to change the way we look at curriculum. Brandy Opfar also commented that she feels her kids have done well in Kindergarten. Eve Darling stated she admires Mr. bunker for heading up the committee and liked the way it was handled.

Motion to not pursue 4-day school week at this time and put a hold on the committee meetings until further notice

Motion: Dan Elwell

Seconded: Luke Adamson

Passes unanimously

C: Student Handbook attendance (athletics)

Marc read policy # 3122 attendance and reference in the student handbook. Dan does not feel it is fair that kids leaving for a sporting event that is sponsored at our school are not marked absent, but those leaving for a sporting event sponsored by Bigfork are marked absent. Liz Richmond expressed her concern that the students in track are missing almost every friday during spring track and it is hard when they are missing assignments and projects

Motion to count absent all students leaving for sports and related absences in 1/10 increments. (Table and add to student handbook for next board meeting for board approval)

D: Hire after school aide

Motion to Hire Carter Ollervidez or the after school aide at 0 years of experience on the pay scale. \$11.62 per hour

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

E: Hire Coach for 7th & 8th grade boys basketball

Motion to hire Curt Wade as the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball coach for the 2018-2019 season at year 3 experience \$850

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Nels Hammack

Passed unanimously

F: Hire Coach for 5th & 6th grade boys basketball

Motion to hire Josh Stibal as the 5th and 6th grade boys basketball coach for the 2018-2019 season at 3 years experience \$850

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Nels Hammack

Passed unanimously

G: Approve County and local substitutes list

Motion to approve the lists for local and county substitutes

Motion: Luke Adamson

Second: Nels Hammack

Passed unanimously

H: Out of district attendance agreements

Motion to approve the out of district attendance agreements for students attending swan river school and students in our district attending other districts.

Motion: Brooke Johnston

Second: Dan Elwell

Passed unanimously

I: Policy #1610

Motion to remove the wording month of October to ongoing. 1st reading

Motion: Dan Elwell

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

Principals report: Current enrollment is 169 students with 55% of students out of district. Continual school improvement plan has been completed to O.P.I. Communication platform (Remind) is under way. Survey put out on the interest in girls volleyball. survey'd grade 4-8 80 % interested. Heather Stiner, offered to coach and schedule and is getting bids on outdoor volleyball for next year. Small rural schools allocation update: cannot be used on playground but can use on technology, accessing curriculum.

Board remarks and discussion:

Projects: Gates on hold. \$1800 for both gates to be installed. Look into gettings signs to keep dogs off playground. Heating system is ongoing. District goals and objectives, focus on foundation of curriculum, cleaning up proficiency, innovation in technology. Specific goals and objectives. Combine old with the new. Work on math and kindergarten reading. 60% not proficient. Nels stated with technology that teachers should be able to bring back more of what they learn at trainings. Keep small school feeling while moving ahead with technology,

Nels doesn't put a lot of value in state tests. Doesn't feel a lot of kids take testing seriously. Brooke feels there is a lot of money being put into technology and everyone needs to be on board so it doesn't gather dust. Talked about a no homework policy. Some feedback is to let teachers decide and some of the parents felt there should be homework.

Approval of Claims:

Motion to approve October 9, claims

Motion: Nels Hammack

Second: Dan Elwell

Passed unanimously

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Motion: Dan Elwell

Seconded: Brooke Johnston

Passed unanimously

Brooke Johnston, Board Chair

Dee Johnson, District Clerk