

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

August 25, 2020

The Swan River School Board of Trustees met in a special session on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Luke Adamson, Board chair presided over the entire meeting.

TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Luke Adamson, Dan Elwell, Brooke Johnston and Linda Stewart

TRUSTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Principal Marc Bunker, District Clerk Dee Johnson, Tracy Stahlberg, Eve Darling, Marcia Ham, Kirk Johnston, Selena Johnston, Dayra Schmidt, Shawna Benson, Shelley Emslie and Brant Estes

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public participation on non-agenda items

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEMS FOR REPORT:

A: Consider approval of out of district attendance over 90%
4th and 5th grade have capped at 90% for out of district. We have a returning 5th grader with a sibling and a new student in 4th
Recommendation to add allow 5th grade student but not 4th grade student because of overcrowding

Motion: Brooke Johnston

Second: Linda Stewart

Passed unanimously

B: Consider hire of Eve Darling for paraprofessional
Marc reported that at least a ½ time para is needed. Maybe more depending on students, Eve is flexible and will check with teachers on need of help in classrooms

Dan made the motion to hire

Linda second

Brooke and Luke have Concerns and would like to table and have Mr. Bunker have a discussion with Teachers

Motion to have Mr. Bunker discuss with Teachers and approve going ahead with hire upon Mr. Bunker's recommendation after discussions.

Motion: Brooke Johnston

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

C: Discussion on possible future Superintendent need for SRS

Mr. Bunker talked about how big the school could grow in the future with more people moving in. As a result of covid planning, families are taking out their children but spaces are being filled immediately. We are currently On the cusp of needing a Superintendent if we have even 1 more certified staff. This could mean having an Administrator with a Superintendent endorsement. It seems there is an expectation that the administrator works year round. Marc currently has a k-8 endorsement. Luke asked Marc where he sees himself for the future. Marc would not care to discuss this at this time. Brooke thought we may have to look at the possibility of a Dean of students like what is being done at Helena Flats

Motion: No Motion necessary, Just discussion

D: Discussion on optional remote learning possibility

This was brought up by several parents that a remote learning option would be beneficial for students.

A Survey was sent out to get a feel for the need for remote learning. Mr. Bunker said that the numbers were lower than what we expected. He doesn't believe in asking teachers to do both, and we would possibly need to hire for remote.

Brooke feels the survey went out prematurely and should have gone out again and doesn't think the numbers are now accurate. Discussed phase 0, where teachers would teach remote and be on site from 9-12.

Dan made the motion to only do remote learning for medical conditions, and feels we can't facilitate hiring more help.

Dayra Schmidt asked if we are prepared for shutdown? Shelley feels we are ready for phase 0. We have Google classroom which all classes can follow. Kirk Johnston would like to see the school set up for remote learning, and meet as many needs as possible. Shanna, see's all sides. Feels students need school and socializing. But with remote they are able

to turn all work in on google classroom. Shanna feels as a teacher she can provide remote learning as well but also feels overwhelmed and would students turn in lessons. Dayra, speaking for herself, feels as a parent she will make sure it is done at home.

Health dept standards change rapidly, if we have a case the school could be shut down immediately or for 3-5 days while traced.

Brandy Vickrey asked about remote or hybrid and feels that families who have a true fear of coming, we should be Accommodating. Christina Brevik also feels we should be able to accommodate those out of fear and when it is safer and subsiding, we can bring them back

Only discussion no motion necessary

E: Consider approval of compensation of salaries for extra time put in for covid

Dan asked to put it on the agenda the possibility of paying Marc and Dee extra out of covid \$ for extra time being put in. Daily rate x 2 weeks

Motion: Dan asked for payment of \$5000 and \$2000

Brooke feels there were others that could ask the same as they came in and worked on a re-open plan and shouldn't start a precedent.

Discussed others coming up with figures if they felt they were entitled also.

No second

F: Discuss/consider approval of CRF (covid funds)

Discussed pricing on obtaining a mister and hand washing stations. (up to 5) Shelley and Brant talked about the need for more chromebooks (50 have already been ordered and would like at least 30 more) and would like to purchase nu-line boards and jam boards for the possibility of going remote. Brooke would like to see one in each classroom to replace the outdated smart boards. Asked Brant and Shelley to get new pricing for 80 chromebooks and boards and purchase pending board approval.

Brooke asked if we could verify the use of face shields also.

Motion to approve purchases and revisit the rest of the covid funds at a later date.

Motion: Brooke Johnston

Second: Luke Adamson

Passed unanimously

G: Consider approval of k-2 reading curriculum and discard old program that is outdated.

Teachers are on board and curriculum will flow into other grades.
“Wonders”

Motion: Linda Stewart
Second: Brooke Johnston
Passed unanimously

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:40 p.m.
Motion: Linda Stewart
Seconded: Brooke Johnston
Passed unanimously

Luke Adamson, Board Chair

Dee Johnson, District Clerk

Topics for next agenda:
Prep time issues