

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2019

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met in regular session, October 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Brand Robinson, Mike Swan, and Ethan Severson.

Members Absent: Dennis Grue, Matt White.

Superintendent Jeff Blessum, High School Principal Jason Slater, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, and Clerk Ann Heisler were present throughout the entire proceedings. Guests attending the meeting are on the list attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brownell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Brownell recognized the visitors in attendance.

Manhattan Schools Rotary Students of the Month Casey Elfland and Kyle Hotvedt were recognized and congratulated by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items. Tom Franta, Executive Director of School Services of Montana, wanted to express his thanks and appreciation for Manhattan Schools hosting the Common PIR day on 9/27/2019. There were over 240 participants from 16 different schools, and it went very well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ethan Severson made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Regular September 10, 2019; September 2019 Payroll Warrants 38938-38982, \$522,668.28; September 2019 Claims Warrants 78242-78299, \$213,730.96; Voids 78255, 78273, 78274, 78275, 78294, 78297, \$12,125.35; September 2019 Student Activities – 25733-25821, \$14,322.82; Voids 25743, 25777, 25778, 25779, 25780, 25781, 25782, 25783; the current Substitute Teacher and Volunteer list for the 2019-2020 school year; Disposal of Records exceeding required retention schedule; and the Obsolete Property Resolution as proposed. The motion was seconded by Brand Robinson and it carried unanimously. The approved Records Destruction Document (RM88) No. 2019-1, and the approved warrant and check listings are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

GALLATIN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mike Swan made a motion to defer to the Amsterdam School Board to assign a Trustee to serve on the Gallatin County Transportation Committee; representing the Manhattan High School District. Brand Robinson seconded the motion, which carried with no dissenting votes.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

OPI OFFICIAL FALL ENROLLMENT COUNT DATE

On the OPI Fall Enrollment Count date of October 7, 2019, total enrollment was 748 students; 254 in grades K-4, 235 in grades 5-8, and 259 in grades 9-12. The official student counts as submitted to OPI are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL AWARD

K-4 Principal Neil Harvey told the Board the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has selected Manhattan Elementary School to receive a 2019 National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) award for Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups. The school has closed the achievement gap in English Language Arts (ELA) between the Special Education student group and the “All” student group by 43% over two years. With this award, Manhattan Public School will receive \$15,000 from the OPI. As part of accepting the award, the district will send a team of five people to the NAESPA Conference in Atlanta, GA, February 4-7, 2020.

FACILITIES BUILDING UPDATE

Superintendent Blessum told the Board that the hydro seeding and final vertical gutter connection to the underground drains is complete. He also mentioned that the school is experiencing continued issues with faucets and reports of hard water. ACE has designed a water softener system to be installed in the high school adjacent to the boiler room. The school currently has a bid in the amount of \$40,060.48 for this project. The Trustees were in favor of this project, and asked for additional bids before making a final decision.

The 1-year warranty walk-through was completed earlier today.

The updated facilities use procedures have been implemented and the school district is starting to collect fees from various groups that want to use our facilities.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent Blessum gave an update to the Board on the progress of the school committees that are currently being re-established. It will be important for each committee to have specific tasks which will help build a solid foundation, and give the committee a direction as it moves forward in recommending decisions for the school district.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, and High School Principal Jason Slater updated the Board on upcoming events and activities in each of their schools, as well as the projects they have been working on.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Blessum gave a report to the Board on the following topics:

1. The 2019 Common PIR day was held at Manhattan School on Friday, September 27, 2019. The school enjoyed hosting this event.
2. The school district will be using Better Lesson; which will give 6 teachers access to their own personalized coach, and provide for additional professional learning.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of October, 2019, were examined and approved for payment.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Board Approved 11/12/19