Minutes from the June 27th, 2022 Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees for DeSmet School District #20 met for a Regular Meeting in the school library at 6:00pm.

Board Trustees present: Emett Anderson, Heather Burgad, Synthia Wendell

Board Trustees Absent: Aaron Foster (Board Chairman), Emily Villegas.

Others Present: Matthew Driessen (Superintendent), Freyja Hughes (District Clerk), Laura Zumpfe, Kim Talbert, Kelli Ebbs, and Cody Munson.

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - Heather Burgad called the meeting to order at 6:11pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Heather Burgad decided to move directly to item X-1, Appointment of Laura Zumpfe to the Board of Trustees. Emett Anderson made a motion to appoint Laura Zumpfe to the Board of Trustees for a 1-year term, and the motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Introduction/Comments of Guests on Items not on the Agenda -

A. Mr. Driessen presented the Office of Public Instruction's proposed Title I District and Parent Engagement Policy for board discussion and possible action. A motion was made by Synthia Wendell to approve the policy, and seconded by Emett Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Recognition of Students and Staff -

A. Mr. Driessen discussed the conclusion of DeSmet's summer school program as well as the Native American cultural program. The board expressed their appreciation for both programs, and indicated that the community also seems to appreciate each program.

IV. Board Correspondence - None at this time.

V. Review of Minutes - A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting on May 16, 2022. The motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Review of Warrants - The board reviewed two batches of warrants, dated 6/12/22 and 6/21/22.

VII. Review of Budget Reports/Revenues - Freyja Hughes reviewed budget reports with trustee attendance.

VIII. Review of Petty Cash & Students Activity Account Freyja Hughes reviewed the Petty Cash and Student Activity accounts with trustee attendance.

IX. Business Manager's Report - Nothing new to add at this time.

X. Principal Report (public comment is allowed before and after Board action)

1. Approve/Disapprove - Appointment of Laura Zumpfe to the Board of Trustees for a 1-year Term
Emett Anderson made a motion to appoint Laura Zumpfe to the Board of Trustees for a 1-year term, and the motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve/Disapprove - Appointment of Emily Villegas to the Board of Trustees for a 1-year Term
The board decided to table this item for a later date, as Aaron Foster (board chair,) and Emily Villegas were both absent from this meeting.

3. Approve/Disapprove - Bus Routes
A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve the bus routes for the upcoming school year, which remain unchanged from the current routes. This was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approve/Disapprove - Renewal of Freyja Hughes as Business Manager/District Clerk for FY23
A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve the renewal of Freyja Hughes as the Business Manager and District Clerk for FY23, with a 5% annual salary increase, in line with the salary increases of the teaching staff agreed upon during negotiations. This was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approve/Disapprove - Renewal of Matthew Driessen as Superintendent/Principal for FY23
A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve the renewal of Matthew Driessen as the Superintendent and Principal for FY23, with a 5% annual salary increase, in line with the salary increases of the teaching staff agreed upon during negotiations. This was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approve/Disapprove - Equal Pay for Summer School Instructors
A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve the adjustment to the summer school instructors' pay to reflect a more equitable amount for their workloads, in line with previously approved pay for the Native American camp organizer. This was seconded by Synthia Wendell. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approve/Disapprove - Changes to DeSmet Collective Bargaining Agreement
A motion was made by Emett Anderson to approve changes to the DeSmet Collective Bargaining Agreement as discussed during negotiations. Synthia Wendell seconded this

motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Driessen and the board expressed their contentment with the way that negotiations were handled this year.

8. Discussion, Possible Action - Maternity/Paternity Leave

The board discussed the implementation of maternity/paternity leave for salaried employees of the district. Also discussed was the implementation of a short-term disability insurance package to help supplement income for employees who may need to use parental leave.

9. Discussion, Possible Action - FEMA, Land Purchase, Track Placement

Mr. Driessen relayed that the district is still awaiting the results of the FEMA study. Regarding the land purchase, Mr. Driessen stated that the district will have 270 days from the receipt of the offer letter to purchase the land.

10. Discussion, Possible Action - Middle School Test Score Action Plan

Mr. Driessen stated that the student body has expressed concerns that they are over-tested. Regarding the recent drop in ELA scores for middle school students, he is proposing to ease up on the testing of students to give them a break. It was discussed that the October conference attended by select teachers and including Matthew Driessen, an emphasis was put on social and emotional care for students in order to increase test scores, along with encouraging students to read for personal enjoyment rather than assignments. Kelli Ebbs suggested teaching students basic Latin vocabulary and test-taking skills. The board expressed content with Mr. Driessen's proposed action going forward regarding these test scores.

11. Approve/Disapprove - Discard Equipment List

A motion was made by Synthia Wendell to approve the proposed list of equipment for discard, compiled by Brian Kelly of Univision, for obsolete or broken technology-related equipment (ie; cables, etc.) This motion was seconded by Emett Anderson. The motion was carried unanimously.

12. Approve/Disapprove - Creation of Student Activity Fund (#184)

Freyja Hughes proposed the creation of a Student Activity Fund (x84) to better track extra-curricular activities in accordance with the Office of Public Instruction as well as the Missoula County Treasurer's Office recommendations. Emett Anderson made a motion to create a Student Activity Fund (184), and the motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. The motion was carried unanimously.

13. Approve/Disapprove - Transfer of Funds to #184 Fund (if Approved)

Emett Anderson made a motion to approve the transfer funds from the First Interstate Bank account where the Student Activity funds were being held, to the newly approved #184 Fund. This motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. The motion was carried unanimously.

14. Approve/Disapprove - School Calendar/Schedule

Emett Anderson made a motion to approve the proposed school calendar and schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Synthia Wendell. The motion was carried unanimously.

XI. Personnel Report

Mr. Driessen relayed that the district is still searching for a music teacher.

XII. Committee Updates

a. Redevelopment Committee

Mr. Driessen updated the board regarding the ball field lease, and informed the board that Jackson Contracting would be on campus during the summer for some construction. The K1-K2 playground installation is in development, and will be expanded in the near future. Freyja Hughes and Mr. Driessen discussed the ongoing insurance claim regarding water damage at the district's past rental property of 6660 Padre Ln, and indicated that Aaron Palmer of Gallagher Bassett will be handling the claim in place of Brandy Garber from Payne West.

b. Strategic Plan Committee

c. Negotiations Committee

Nothing new, as Synthia Wendell already shared her thoughts on negotiations earlier during the meeting.

XIII. Upcoming Meetings

No meetings are to be scheduled in July. Upcoming meetings will be Monday, August 15th, 2022, and Monday, August 29th, 2022. The 8/15/22 meeting will be the district's final budget meeting for the FY23 year.

XIV. Comments of Guest & School Board Members on Items Not on the Agenda

Synthia Wendell expressed the importance of thorough discussion and practice of safety protocols at the school. Mr. Driessen discussed some of the current safety protocols with the board, and relayed that there is an emergency text-notification system to alert parents and staff in case of an emergency, as well as Vicki Richards (secretary) now having the ability to notify relevant parties from home, without needing to come into the building.

XV. Adjourn

There being no further business, Emett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Heather Burgad. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

APPROVED ___________________________

(Date)

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Aaron Foster, Chair of the Board

Minutes scribed and typed by Freyja Hughes, District Clerk

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