



**DeSmet School District #20**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**6:00 pm Monday, March 27th 2023**  
**In the School Library**

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**Board Members Present:** Aaron Foster, Heather Burgad, Emily Villegas (by phone),  
Laura Zumpfe (by phone)

**Board Members Absent:** Synthia Wendell

**Others Present:** Matthew Driessen, Freyja Hughes

**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was recited and the meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.

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

Librarian Kelli Ebbs wrote a letter to the board detailing the use of ESSER Funds for the purchase of library books

**III. Recognition of Students and Staff**

**IV. Board Correspondence**

**V. Review of Minutes**

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the minutes from 2.20.23, 3.1.23, and 3.17.23. This motion was seconded by Emily Villegas, and passed unanimously.

**VI. Review of Warrants**

A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the warrants from 2.20.23 through 3.24.23. This motion was seconded by Emily Villegas, and passed unanimously.

**VII. Business Manager's Report**

- A. Ms. Hughes reviewed the budget reports with trustee attendance.
- B. Ms. Hughes reported that of the three trustee seats up for election this year, the two 3-year races were canceled due to the candidates appointment via acclamation, and the seat for a 1-year term had a total of two candidates who would be running for the position in the upcoming election. The district did not qualify for a general fund election, and therefore this portion of the election was canceled. School Election Day will be on May 2nd.
- C. Ms. Hughes reviewed the proposed MUST Renewal, which included an approximate 13.4% increase in price from last year. The district is working with the Southwest Insurance Company to see if there are any better options, before deciding to renew.

### **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Mr. Driessen presented a report from the Maintenance team at DeSmet with a list of proposed projects for the summer.
- B. Mr. Driessen and the board discussed the addition of solar panels to the school.
- C. Mr. Driessen relayed that Kat Brown and Kim Talbert, specialized para-educators, were to be fulfilling additional duties akin to that of a health aide, and would be receiving additional stipends of \$50/day for each day that they complete these duties.
- D. Mr. Driessen proposed the formation of two \$1000 scholarships, intended for para-educators who would like to pursue a degree in education, to encourage the district's existing staff to receive a higher education and remain in-district once they received a teaching certificate. A motion was made to approve these two \$1000 scholarships by Heather Burgad, and seconded by Laura Zumpfe. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. A motion was made by Emily Villegas to approve the proposed FY24 Classified Matrix, and seconded by Heather Burgad. Motion passed unanimously.  
[\[pdf of Proposed Classified Matrix for FY24\]](#)

### **IX. Personnel Report**

- A. A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the hire of Stacy Bateman as a Track Coach to receive a \$1200 stipend. This motion was seconded by Emily Villegas, and passed unanimously.
- B. A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the hire of Caitie Bloom as a Track Coach to receive a \$1200 stipend. This motion was seconded by Emily Villegas, and passed unanimously.
- C. A motion was made by Emily Villegas to approve the hire of Savannah Stern as a 1st Grade Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year, 1.0FTE \$34,720 (Step 2, Lane 1). This motion was seconded by Heather Burgad, and passed unanimously.

### **X. Committee Updates**

- A. Redevelopment Committee
- B. Strategic Plan Committee
- C. Negotiations Committee:
- D. Financial Committee
- E. Safety Committee:

The safety committee plans to meet with Caitie Bloom and Ellie Michels before Spring Break, and coordinate with Missoula County for their emergency response plan. It was discussed that in the case of a severe emergency, students and staff would meet at a designated location outside the building, and be bussed to the Missoula Fairgrounds as a neutral, safe location.

It has been determined that now if anyone dials EMS services while within a certain radius of the school campus, the school will also receive an alert, in order to be informed in a timely manner of potential emergencies that could impact the district.

**XI. Upcoming Meetings**

A. Monday, April 17th

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

**XIII. Adjourn**

A unanimous motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

Minutes typed and scribed by Freyja Hughes, District Clerk:

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Approved by Aaron Foster, Board Chair:

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