



**DeSmet School District #20**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**6:00 pm Monday, August 7th 2023**  
**In the School Library**

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**Trustees Present:**

Aaron Foster, Heather Burgad, Laura Zumpfe, Synthia Wendell, Jasmine Dahlquist

**Others Present:**

Matthew Driessen

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

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

**III. Recognition of Students and Staff**

**IV. Board Correspondence**

**V. Review of Minutes**

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the 6.19.23 Minutes, and seconded by Laura Zumpfe. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Review of Warrants**

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the July Warrants, and seconded by Laura Zumpfe. Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Business Manager's Report**

Mr. Driessen presented the information compiled by Business Manager Freyja Hughes in her absence, and reviewed year-end budget reports with the board.

**VIII. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Approve/Disapprove: CSCT MOU**

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the MOU Proposed by Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch to run their counseling program in the school. This motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously.

**B. Approve/Disapprove: FY24 Student Handbook**

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the Student Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year, as compiled by Elizabeth Kaleva. This motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously. The board expressed that they would defer to federal law in cases of new legislation passed by the state of Montana that could impact school procedure.

C. Approve/Disapprove: FY24 Staff Handbook

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the Staff Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. This motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously.

D. Approve/Disapprove: Policy Updates

A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the policy updates submitted by Elizabeth Kaleva in accordance with legal updates following the legislative session. This motion was seconded by Heather Burgad, and carried unanimously.

E. Discussion/Possible Action: Solar Panel Array

The board reviewed communication with McKinstry regarding the addition of a solar array at DeSmet. There was a discussion regarding a contract issue with McKinstry, brought forward by Elizabeth Kaleva, and the alternative of doing business with Jackson Contracting was proposed, as they had worked on the expansion of the school and had a good relationship with the district. A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve working with Jackson Contracting for the Solar Panel Array. This motion was seconded by Heather Burgad, and carried unanimously.

F. Discussion: TED District

The board discussed Missoula's ongoing talks of a TED District at the Wye and the western region of DeSmet School District, being wholly opposed to the TED District due to the impact it would have on the school. Mr. Driessen indicated that DeSmet is working with Frenchtown and Hellgate to ameliorate the plan, and the board agreed that they would take whatever action they felt was necessary to best advocate for the district.

G. Discussion: DeSmet Housing Development

Mr. Driessen relayed that the agreement to purchase the land was sent to the Missoula Parks Department. The board discussed potential options to finance this purchase, and subsequently plan to build a track on the land.

**IX. Personnel Report**

A. Approve/Disapprove: Hire of Yuliia Bila as a 1.0 FTE Language Interpreter, starting at \$18/hour.

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the hire of Yuliia Bila as a 1.0 FTE Language Interpreter, starting at \$18/hour. This motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously.

B. Closed Session Requested: Individual Staff Member Requesting MOU

\*\*\*A closed session has been requested to discuss a personnel item, due to the individual's right to privacy outweighing the public's right to information\*\*

The board entered closed session at 7:45pm, and left closed session at 7:55pm.

**X. Committee Updates**

**XI. Upcoming Meetings**

- A. 6:00pm Thursday, August 17th

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

**XIII. Adjourn**

A unanimous motion was carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

Minutes transcribed by Superintendent Matthew Driessen:

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Minutes typed by Freyja Hughes, District Clerk:

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Minutes approved by Aaron Foster, Board Chair:

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