



DeSmet School District #20
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
6:00 pm Monday, November 13th, 2023
In the School Library

Trustees Present: Synthia Wendell, Jasmine Dahlquist, Heather Burgad, Laura Zumpfe

Trustees Absent: Aaron Foster/Trustee/Chair

Others Present: Matthew Driessen, Freyja Hughes, Jackie Tunis, Carly Aho

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Synthia Wendell called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

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

None at this time.

III. Recognition of Students and Staff

- A. Mr. Driessen relayed that Ms. Mullis raised a gross amount of \$3,000 for the music department, Ms. Ebbs raised about \$1042 with the Scholastic Book Club that concluded this past week. He also relayed that a recent article listed DeSmet as the top junior high school in Missoula.

IV. Board Correspondence

V. Business Manager's Report

- A. Approve/Disapprove: Minutes

A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the 10.23.23 and 10.30.23 minutes. The motion was seconded by Heather Burgad, and carried unanimously.

- B. Approve/Disapprove: Warrants

**October's warrants were approved at the last meeting, November warrants have not yet been issued. No action was taken at this time.*

- C. Discussion: Trustee Elections

VI. Superintendent's Report

[\[Annotated Superintendent's Report\]](#)

A. Discussion/Possible Action: Boys and Girls Club Afterschool Program Funding

Mr. Driessen discussed the rising cost of the afterschool program run by the Boys and Girls Club, as well as introducing a fee in the future to help offset the costs in order to keep the program running.

B. Discussion/Possible Action: Bond Election Results

Mr. Driessen relayed that both bond items failed, and the district is still waiting for documentation from the Missoula County Elections office. No action was taken.

C. Discussion/Possible Action: Selling Land

The board discussed different methods of acquiring the parcel of land next to the school to build a track, in light of the bond issues not passing. Mr. Driessen suggested different plans, potentially using Building Reserve funds to initiate the project. The board discussed different ways to bring more of the community together for a discussion on school finance and goals of the district. No action was taken.

D. Discussion: Housing Development

Mr. Driessen relayed that no updates have been made to the upcoming housing development, but reminded the board that this will impact the school population as the housing goes in.

E. Discussion/Possible Action: Intercap Loan for Solar Panels & Fire Hydrant Installation

Mr. Driessen reviewed Intercap Loan funding, and presented his plan to apply for a loan to assist with larger projects at the school, \$124,000 for the solar project, an estimated \$75,000 for the fire hydrant, and \$7,800 for soffit reconstruction.

A motion was made by Laura Zumpfe to approve the application for an intercap to pay for the remainder of the solar panels, fire hydrant, and soffit repairs. Seconded by Heather Burgad. Unanimous motion carried.

F. Discussion: Board Training with Elizabeth Kaleva

Mr. Driessen relayed that Elizabeth Kaleva has offered to come to the DeSmet campus and do an hour long training for the board, she plans to attend the December meeting for training before the meeting.

VII. Personnel Report

A. Approve/Disapprove: Addition of Melissa Nierenberg-Driessen to the sub list

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the addition of Melissa Nierenberg-Driessen to the sublist. Motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously.

B. Approve/Disapprove: Stacy Bateman as Concessions Manager

A motion was made by Heather Burgad to approve the hire of Stacy Bateman as Concessions Manager. Motion was seconded by Laura Zumpfe, and carried unanimously.

C. Discussion/Possible Action: Dean of Students Position

Mr. Driessen relayed that the Dean of Students position was suggested initially to have a de-facto substitute if he needs to leave, since he is currently the only building administrator, but voiced that it seems to have caused a bit of an issue with the staff, who views the position as an additional layer of administration. Mr. Driessen requested that the position be withdrawn until a later date, and suggested that in an event where he needs to be away from the school, he can appoint a staff member at that time, to be paid at their daily rate, as opposed to a designated year-round position. No action was taken, although the board was agreeable to moving forward without filling the Dean of Students position.

D. Approve/Disapprove: SPED Para Hire

A motion was made to approve the hire of a SPED Para by Laura Zumpfe and seconded by Jasmine Dahlquist. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Discussion: Mr. Driessen to visit Grand Canyon University in February

Mr. Driessen relayed that he was invited to visit Grand Canyon University in February to discuss ways to encourage potential educators to pursue a college degree, but in a way that they can attend classes after a typical 9-5 workday, as several paras at DeSmet have done by attending online classes after school.

VIII. Committee Updates

Development Committee:

A. Discussion: TIF District

B. Discussion: Foundation

Synthia Wendell discussed the potential of a DeSmet Foundation, and relayed that the Booster Club is legally set up as a foundation at this time. She indicated that Elizabeth Kaleva has relayed that it would need a name change, and that the foundation would need a treasurer and two additional trustees.

It would be a conflict of interest for board members to be members of the foundation board, but the Superintendent and teachers can be ex-officio members of the foundation, according to Mrs. Wendell.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A. 6:00 pm Monday, December 18th

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

XI. Adjourn

Heather Burgad made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Laura Zumpfe. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Approved: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Board Chair

District Clerk