



## **DeSmet School District #20**

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
6:00 pm Monday, August 19th, 2024  
In the School Library

**Trustees Present:** Heather Burgad, Synthia Wendell, Katie Brubaker

**Trustees Absent:** Sigrid Sheie, Jasmine Dahlquist

**Others Present:** Matthew Driessen, Freyja Erikson, Keith Burgad

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### **Regular Meeting Agenda**

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

Board Chair Heather Burgad called the meeting to order at 6:10pm and the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

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

Mr. Driessen relayed that he had testified in Helena regarding an issue with TIF-Districts as they pertain to school funding. Mr. Driessen shared that he was asked about how TIF Districts have affected DeSmet School District in the past, and that the district was financially impacted in a negative way by the last TIF District, and that DeSmet has had to pay for the installation of a fire hydrant, as a result of the development that went on in the TIF District. He discussed other TIF Districts in the Missoula area, and relayed that the city has not adequately discussed the TIF District impacts on the DeSmet School District.

Superintendent Driessen plans to address the registered voters in the district at a later date to explain the impact the TIF district will have on them, which the Missoula municipal governments have failed to address.

#### **III. Recognition of Students and Staff**

Superintendent Driessen relayed that there are no current updates with students, as they have been out of school for summer break. Staff highlights included readying the school for the upcoming school year, and that some trees were removed following a severe storm.

#### **IV. Board Correspondence**

None at this time.

**V. Business Manager's Report**

A. Action: Review/Approval of Minutes

[\[6.24.24 Regular Meeting Minutes\]](#)

[\[7.29.24 Special Meeting Minutes\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell to approve the 6.24.24 and 7.29.24 Minutes. This motion was seconded by Katie Brubaker, and was carried unanimously.

B. Action: Review/Approval of Warrants

[\[July Warrants\]](#)

[\[August Warrants\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the July and August warrants. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Discussion/Action: FY23 Audit Report

[\[FY23 Audit Report\]](#)

D. Discussion/Action: FY24 Trustees Financial Summary

[\[FY24 Trustees Financial Summary\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the FY24 Trustees Financial Summary. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. Discussion/Action: FY25 Budget Report

[\[FY25 Budget Report\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the FY25 Budget Report. The motion was carried unanimously.

F. Discussion/Action: Staff Request from Vicki Richards Regarding Paid Holidays

[\[Request from Vicki Richards\]](#)

A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the addition of President's Day to the FY25 School Year paid holidays for the classified staff. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **VI. Superintendent's Report**

### **A. Discussion/Action: Staff Handbook**

[\[Memo from Kaleva Law\]](#)

Mr. Driessen and the board reviewed the Staff Handbooks as revised by Kaleva Law. A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the Staff Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **B. Discussion/Action: Student Handbook**

[\[Memo from Kaleva Law\]](#)

Mr. Driessen and the board reviewed the Student Handbooks as revised by Kaleva Law. A motion was made first by Synthia Wendell and seconded by Katie Brubaker to approve the Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **VII. Personnel Report**

## **VIII. Committee Updates**

Mr. Driessen indicated that the district is anticipating negotiations with the teacher's union this upcoming year, which will be discussed in more detail in the future.

## **IX. Upcoming Meetings**

Monday, August 26th at 6:00pm

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

## **XI. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made first by Katie Brubaker and seconded by Synthia Wendell. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.