



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The mission of this Board of Trustees is to champion the cause of students in public education by establishing the framework through which all educational resources are maximized.

Regular School Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

*KalisPELL Middle School
Library Media Center
205 Northwest Lane
KalisPELL, MT 59901*

7/14/2015 6:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chair Joe Brenneman, Vice Chair Anna Marie Bailey, Mary Ruby, Bette Albright, Lance Labrum, Steve Davis, Dave Schultz, Jack Fallon, Tom Clark, Don Murray

Members Absent: Jeremy Reed

Officials Present: Superintendent Mark Flatau, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson, Transportation Director Lisa Gannon, Glacier High School Principal Callie Langohr, Flathead High School Principal Peter Fusaro, KMS Principal Tryg Johnson

Others Present: Amy Pholphiboun, KAJ-TV; Richard Hildner, former SD5 Teacher; Donna Smith, Community Member; Derek Skees, Community Member; Ashley Godbold, Community Member; Jayden Godbold, Student; Riley Godbold, Student; Sam Nunnaly, Community Member; JoAnn Paullin, Community Member; Derek R. Dalton, Community Member; Shirley Anderson, Community Member; Sue Lefebvre, Community Member; Hugh Naldrett, Teacher; Bree Sutherland, Gender Expansion Project; Mary Wellemyer, Glacier Unitarian Universalist; Ina Albert, Love Lives Here; Stephanie Woodland, Student; Katie Stobie, Student; Paige Rappleye, Pride Foundation; Kathy Kelly, Love Lives Here; Keith Regier, District Resident; Jolene Regier, District Resident; Amy Regier, District Resident; Taylor Rose, Community Member; James Atwell, Citizen; Jeanne Carlson, District Resident; Marcus Carlson, District Resident; Lynn Stanley, District Resident; Jerry Kinniburgh, District Resident; Scott Kinniburgh, Parent; Susan Cahill, Community Member; Kim Leighton, Pride Foundation; Luke Van Helden, District Graduate; Carl Brenneman, Community Member; Bob Herron, Community Member; Matt Brake, District Resident; Tom Hollo, Community Member; Dorothy Drury (?) Community Member; Heidi Roedel, District Resident; Elizabeth Walter, District Resident; Randy Brodehl, WD9; Todd Bernhardt, District Resident; Paula Rich, District Resident; Christopher Cunningham, District 5 Graduate and Candidate for KalisPELL City Council; Rod Tinseth, District Resident; Sherry Tinseth, District Resident; Matt Anderson, District Resident; Amy Anderson, District Resident; Monica Hemingway, District Resident; C.J. Cummings, Teacher; Mark Odell, District Resident; Kelye (?) Odell, District Resident; Alexandra C. Wright, GHS Student; Sara Wilson, Teacher/Parent; Laura Rhodes, Concerned Parent; James Rhodes, Concerned Parent; Jonene Bernhardt, Mother of 6th and 10th graders; Rudy Keostner, Community Member; Lorraine Koestner, Community Member; Matt Regier, Community Member; Will Randall, Community Member; Nancy Pensa, SD5; Ben Young, Teacher/Parent; Pauline Sjordal, Community Member; Hillary Matheson, Daily Interlake; Beth Kornick, Secretary of the Board.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Action)

Chair Brenneman called for a motion on the Agenda as presented.
Trustee Isaak made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented.
Trustee Albright seconded the motion.
Motion Carries.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Action)

Chair Brenneman called for a motion regarding the Minutes from the June 9th and June 23rd Board Meetings, as presented.
Trustee Fallon made a motion to approve the June 9th and June 23rd Board Meeting Minutes as presented.
Trustee Davis seconded the motion.
Motion Carries.

5. RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

(Information)

Chair Brenneman introduced the next item on the Agenda, Recognitions and Reports.

a. RECOGNITIONS

NONE

b. REPORTS

Chair Brenneman introduced Dianne Burke from the MQEC (Montana Quality Education Coalition).

i. Montana Quality Education Coalition

Dianne Burke addressed the Board and explained that the MQEC is a state wide advocacy group of which she has been the Executive Director 1 yr and a half. Ms. Burke read the Mission Statement of MQEC, as presented and then touched on some important things in the Montana State Constitution.

- Article X, Section 1: Educational goals and duties.
- Section 6: Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. collectively called a Blaine amendment. Any state that entered the union after 1875 had to adopt this language.
- Section 8: School District Trustees
- Section 9: Board of Education

Ms. Burke then gave a brief History of MQEC:

- Formed in 2001 for a specific purpose.
- Question of quality came in Columbia Falls legal battle.
- 2005 Legislature was tasked to define quality and then to fund it.
- Held a special session in December.
- Legislature was supposed to include inflation in public school funding and they did not, but it was eventually restored.
- 20-9-309 calls for a review every 15 years

Ms. Burke then touched on the 2015 Legislative Session Challenges:

- Privatization and state funding for private schools.
- SB410 became law but was not signed by the Governor. MQEC will be watching closely to make sure that stays in the boundaries of what it is supposed to do. There is a finite amount of money available and if you keep adding pots you face a decrease in funding in another pot.

Ms. Burke asked the Board 'Why should you be a member of MQEC?'

- MQEC provides additional dollars for the Board to carry out the work of your District.
- \$839/student in 2013-14
- MQEC is a membership organization. Dues for AA schools is A\$4000 per year.
- MQEC is a very lean organization, only one employee.

- Ms. Burke travels to all 310 districts in the state.
- Board members need to know what the dues are paying for.

Trustee Clark asked Ms. Burke: Since they are opening the door to shift to funding private, what accounting method are they putting in place?

Ms. Burke stated that the Department of Revenue is putting those into place and as soon as that is available MQEC will share it.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Brenneman asked if any member of the audience wished to comment on a matter not on the agenda, further stating that the Board could not take action on any matter brought up in public comment because the public had not previously been notified of the matter.

Community Member Donna Smith asked to address the Board regarding the Flathead High School Parking/West Side Parking issue:

Ms. Smith stated:

- That she has been involved with the parking issue since 1991, recently working on two committees.
- Today Ms. Smith wants to talk about the grass area on the South East side of FHS.
- The grass area was put down in 2008 for 2 reasons. 1) GHS is surrounded by Grass and 2) to replicate a large area of grass that was there earlier.
- FHS students are in school for 4 years and will never remember how much grass was there.
- Plenty of grass for them to enjoy
- At June 23rd Board meeting, was shocked to learn about a new sidewalk being considered.
- Why would the Board consider spending money for a new sidewalk?
- Remove the sidewalk and you will have plenty of space for parking.

Ms. Smith stated that FHS Principal Peter Fusaro has said that "the grass will never be on the table".

Ms. Smith then referred to comments made by Trustee Davis and Trustee Reed reported in the media, regarding the April 14th board meeting. They said as many parking spots as needed will be added when the drainage is added.

Ms. Smith stated that she hopes more Board members know deep down this needs to be done. This along with other spots being added will take many cars off of our streets.

Ms. Smith then read a letter from community members requesting that the grass area be removed to add at least 14 angled spots. Ms. Smith presented 57 signatures to the Board, with more to come.

*****For documents that were submitted by the Public during the Board Meeting, Please refer back to the Agenda under the Public Comment section, as there is no way to download them into the minutes, or contact Beth at the Superintendent's Office at 406-751-3434**

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Brenneman introduced the next item on the Agenda, New Business.

a. APPROVAL OF HANDBOOKS

(Action)

Chair Brenneman called for a motion regarding the School Handbooks as presented.

Trustee Schultz made a motion to approve the School Handbooks as presented.

Trustee Murray seconded the motion and added that he wanted to commend those that keep up the information in the handbooks, calling the handbooks an amazing compendium of information.

Motion Carries.

i. FHS

ii. GHS

iii. KMS

iv. ELEMENTARY

b. FIRST OF THREE READINGS OF POLICY UPDATES

Chair Brenneman announced the First of Three Readings of Policy Updates, as presented.

i. Policy # TBD, Managing Serious Medical Conditions

The first reading of Policy (# to be determined), Managing Serious Medical Conditions, stands as presented.

ii. Policy 4330, Facility Use

The first reading of Policy 4330, Facility Use stands as presented.

c. MHSAs DUES APPROVAL

(Action)

Chair Brenneman called for a motion regarding the MHSAs Dues Approval as presented.

Vice Chair Bailey made a motion to approve the MHSAs Dues as presented.

Trustee Murray seconded the motion.

Motion Carries.

d. CONTRACT APPROVALS FOR REMAINING EMPLOYEE GROUPS

Chair Brenneman called for a motion on the Contract Approvals for Remaining Employee Groups.

Vice Chair Bailey made a motion to approve the contracts for remaining employee groups, as presented.

Trustee Albright seconded the motion.

Motion carries.

e. PERSONAL LEAVE ADJUSTMENT-SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

(Action)

Chair Brenneman called for a motion on the Personal Leave Adjustment- Superintendent Contract.

Vice Chair Bailey made a motion to approve the personal leave adjustment for the Superintendents contract as presented.

Trustee Fallon seconded the motion.

Motion Carries.

f. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE UPDATE/RECOMMENDATION

(Possible Action)

Transportation Director Lisa Gannon updated the Board on Transportation Committee recommendation. Ms. Gannon told the Board that the Transportation Task Force Committee, including Trustees Albright and Isaak, took a very complete look at all aspects of transportation and make sure the District is getting the most bang for our buck while maintaining safety. The Committee first looked at Activity Trips. The District travels 130,000 miles for Activity Trips per school year. Looking at the cost of contracting out the transportation versus in-house, the cost per hour and per mile is more for in-house transportation than contracting out. The Task Force presented this to the Finance Committee. The District has 4 Over the Road Drivers assigned for the Activities trips who retain benefits and are guaranteed hours, these drivers would no longer be needed if the District contracted the Activities trips. The Transportation Office would like to use contractors for all trips over 200 miles. On days with multiple busses going to the same place SD5 busses would be used as well. The majority of SD5 trips would remain the same but the District will save \$30,000 by not having specific Over the Road drivers.

Trustee Schultz told the Board that the Finance Committee did a deep dive into the issue and felt that the Transportation Committee recommendation is a good one, and the best way to go forward.

Trustee Davis asked how the mileage cut-offs were determined. Director Gannon stated that the committee looked at an air mile radius map, as presented. Director Gannon added that Bus Contractors have greater networking conditions and an easier/faster response time to breakdowns.

Trustee Davis asked if it would also save the District money to use contractors for closer trips?

Director Gannon stated that the District can use our own busses and employees for less in those instances.

It was agreed that the Board was comfortable with the Transportation Committees recommendation and that Director Gannon should go forward with the plan as presented.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Chair Brenneman introduced the next item on the Agenda, Old Business.

a. SECOND READING- POLICIES

Chair Brenneman announced the Second of Three Readings of Policy Updates to Policy 3210 Equal Education, Non Discrimination, Sex Equity, as presented.

i. Policy 3210 Equal Education, Non Discrimination, Sex Equity

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Chair Brenneman clarified the Policy procedure for the community members stating that the Policy Committee made a recommendation to the Board, after holding numerous committee meetings and three public sub-committee meetings, to add the wording "Gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression", as presented, to Policy 3210, Equal Education, Non-Discrimination, and Sex Equity. The Board had the First reading at the June 23rd work session and recommended that Policy 3210 move forward to a second reading as presented.

Chair Brenneman then asked if any Trustee had questions? Chair Brenneman then asked how many people in the audience were in support of the proposed change and how many people don't know for sure, how many people have questions?

Brenneman then stated that the Board is under a time line tonight as there is an agenda item at 7:30 and the Board will need to conclude public comment in a half an hour, adding that the law states the Board can limit time for public questions and comments. It was determined that 20 audience members were prepared to address the Board and that each speaker would be given two minutes to speak. Chair Brenneman reiterated that the Board is not a legislative body, and are only considering whether or not this policy needs updating adding that comments need to be made pertinent to policy, no theology or ideology. Brenneman stated that "as a Board we have a very limited task before us. My Assistant Chair will be monitoring the time and will notify at 30 seconds left, and at 2 minutes I will say 'thank you for your comments'." Community Members comments are summarized as follows:

- Shirley Andersen: came out 7 years ago as a parent of a gay daughter. First I suffered from ignorance, homophobia, then came tolerance. I urge people "to make the leap that it's not a choice these people make, it is how they are born. Our daughter has schooled me and educated me and I am firmly in support of what you are doing. Ours is a country that says we believe in freedom and rights for all people and I am glad you are starting where its important, at the school level".
- Ben Young: "This is just a paper policy, what is your vision of how this is played out, what does it look like in the school in regards to personal privacy, bathrooms, etc.?"
- Keith Regier: "All my kids have graduated from FHS". Mr. Regier urged the Board to reject this policy and listed several reasons: 1) if this policy allows for sexual identification and expression then this opens the door for other identification recognition, adding only one identification would discriminate. 2) will this also be placed in the staff policy book as well? 3)This would discriminate against privacy rights of other students 4) This policy isn't needed. Mr. Regier said he was able to read in the newspaper the testimony that was given of harassment and intimidation adding that the Board has a policy that covers those issues, another policy is not needed. 5) this is a political issue: this Board should not be perceived as political activists but advocates for student education.
- Rev. Mary Wellemier: it is a matter of faith for me, we are created in Gods image and it is our challenge to deal with the diversity that is found among us and we need to love each other and school needs to be a safe place for all children, so they can learn, grown and respect themselves. It is important to be specific about the kinds of people we need to include and sometimes special accommodations are needed and staff members and students need to be able to refer to specific policy wording.
- Elizabeth Walter: Graduate of FHS, had 3 children who Graduated from SD5 and a daughter who will. You must keep the needs of all students. As of 10/16/14 there were 2,806 students in the District. How many are being directly affected by this change? You are opening a door that doesn't need to be open.
- Bob Herron: stated that since we can't talk about anthropology, biology, or theology he would quote Plato, as presented.
- Lynn Stanley: "My daughter graduated from FHS, I would never argue with Plato but I do support the change and I urge you to approve it. Bullying and intimidation are never ok. This policy needs to be updated to recognize and protect LGBT students from discrimination and predatory harassment.
- Pauline Sjoldal: Charlie Rose has been doing brain episodes for 15 years. you will see all the different

areas the scientist have explored. The scientists have proven that in the brain the physical hormones don't always match the hormones the brain is saying. If the person starts to listen to the voice in his head they blossom into a wonderful human being. if they don't they may suffer from suicide.

- Derek Skees: This is an associative disorder, Thank you to all our extinguished guests that don't live in the Valley. This doesn't need to happen. Would you discriminate against a student who is obese? No, none of these groups are going to be discriminated against. Where is this going? This is a slippery slope and this is already covered by the policy. Any one on the Board wish to dispute the fact that no one will be discriminated against?
- Paige Rappley: Local Pride foundation, I support this policy change because I believe public school should be a safe one, I am not naive and I know bullying happens even by staff, that is why we need policy like these. if you feel that you are doing everything right by these kids already you should vote yes.
- Carla Augustad: I want to tell you that LGBT kids have a very high suicide rate. Years ago I had a younger brother who killed himself, he never got to turn 20, never got to graduate. please pass this.
- Randy Brodell: I looked at the no bullying poster for the past hour and looked at the language. You have language in place that says we are not going to discriminate. To add this in which is reaching into the moral compass of families is not correct for this board to do. The board has an obligation to educate. I ask you to stick with the language. There is no end to that, it will grow and grow. Let this remain as policy you already have for the moral compass.
- Steph woodland: Junior at FHS . One perspective absent is students in High School. I am not a part of LGBT community but I am an ally. Last year in school a teacher heard another student call another one gay and the teacher did nothing about it. If your own educators are discriminating against students how come these issues haven't stopped? Stephanie then presented some statistics on bullying. Even one percent is too many, bullied not only by their peers but also by their adult members. I urge you to vote in favor.
- CJ Cummings: Teacher at GHS: read an email from a student as presented: The point I am trying to make is that this is clearly still happening despite our non bullying policy, the problem persists.
- Richard Hilltner: as a 19 year veteran of teaching in this district I do urge you to adopt this policy I think our students deserve to be free of fear, hate, and bigotry.
- Ashley Godbold: As a former member of Superintendent Denise Juneau's Student Advisory Board, I urge you to reject this proposal. As a mother in the Flathead, I urge you to reject this proposal. As a former student in the Flathead, I urge you to reject this proposal. The reason for my feelings are the fact that the issue is bullying of the general student body, not of LGBT students. If you are going to make a new policy you need to make a new policy for bullying as a whole.
- Bree Sutherland: I am here to speak for the many youth who can't speak for themselves. Students in this school district are afraid to tell their teachers they are LGBT. They talk about killing themselves. Adding words is not providing special rights. This is to support and provide equality for everyone. It is important to put these words in place to create an environment where youth can thrive and not worry about how they are going to be treated.
- Todd Bernhard: I have 2 kids in KPS. I met with Mark Flatau. LGBT students are already being accommodated by staff. The impression I came away with is that this new language will not cause anything different to be done. The Superintendent said this district does not discriminate period. Each hand out and testimony is related to their own personal bullying episodes. The vast majority of kids get picked on and all of us can relate to that. the solution is to develop a better anti bullying program and train teachers and administrators. I do not support adding wording to the policy. Let's keep the focus where it belongs, on all students.
- Nathan Kosted: Love Lives Here: You may have noticed a large group of us are wearing light blue shirts today, That is not accidental, Blue is in the Transgender flag and we chose to wear it in solidarity for all LGBT students. Now is the time to expand this policy for all the student. It will provide a safer healthier environment. Passing this policy update represents what a school stands for. Love Lives Here stands firmly in support of this. Please add those six words.
- Kim Leighton: Pride Foundation: We are advocating for youth. LGBT youth experience a very high rate of violence and bullying. We have heard a lot of statistics and when policies are in place with 6 additional words there is a stronger likelihood that bullying won't happen and that staff will intervene. This will send a message that everyone matters equally. This is what is the best solution for all students.
- Taylor Rose: I have a question for the Board: Before this language is inserted the policy refers to unelected affinities. Gender Identity and Gender Expression are elected affinities. What happens when a 16 year old boy wants to wake up and decides to identify as a girl so he can go shower with girls and how do you stop someone from rigging the system?
- Luke Van heldon: Some of my most difficult times were spent in this district. We each have a gender

identity and a gender expression so this is for all of us. It is explicitly important to name these 3 things so they know it has been thought about and that people care.

- Rudy Kessner: I am a parent of 4 adult kids that attended in this district. There are many issues they have had to go through along with all of their peers. Trying to make special language for groups of individuals is a societal problem. To try to bring this into the school and make a policy is not a way to fix societal problems. I am looking at all of you and none of you are students. (at which point two audience members asserted that they were indeed students). I have nothing against the LGBTQI community. I told my kids that everything is about clarity. The uncertainty that young people go through, they are uncertain about many different things including sexual identity. Schools need to be a place of clarity. We do need to keep our signs really clear.

Chair Brenneman then announced that the Board would be ending public comment at this moment due to an upcoming agenda item. Chair Brenneman stated that there will be a time for more comment at the 3rd reading at the August 11th Board Meeting. Chair Brenneman then apologized and added that he doesn't like to end public comment. Chair Brenneman asked if any Board member would like to suggest a change to Policy 3210 as presented.

Trustee Davis made a motion to change line 7 by putting a period after "students" and eliminating the rest of the wording down to the end of line 10, and removing the wording in line 12 after the comment of 'no student' taking out 'on the basis of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression', so NO one is left out.

Trustee Schultz seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Bailey stated that she is opposed to Trustee Davis' proposal and would like the Policy to stand as presented.

Trustee Clark stated that he is opposed to Trustee Davis' motion citing the argument of the slippery slope and the idea to deal with it when it comes as not working. "With this group we know they need us."

Trustee Murray stated that he is going to oppose Trustee Davis' motion adding that he wanted "to thank everyone who came toning. it is devicise and it is the social justice issue of our time, we all care about the same thing , the best opportunities for all our children to get the best possible education. I also want to note that the United States Supreme Court found it was unconstitutional for states to ban same sex marriage. It reminded me of when I was a high school senior, it was when the court said it was unconstitutional for discrimination against interracial marriage. I strongly favor us doing this although I respect the views of those who think we shouldn't."

Trustee Davis added "I keep hearing the bullying thing over and over, this policy is here to make sure we give equal access to every student. If we need to do something to stop a particular group from getting bullied we need to go to that policy. Every time we add something to this list we are leaving someone out and we are going to have to revisit this again."

Chair Brenneman called for the vote:

Motion did not Carry.

The Nays have it with Trustee Davis and Trustee Schultz voting Yay and Trustees Murray, Clark, Fallon, Ruby, Isaak, Bailey, and Albright voting Nay.

Policy 3210 Stands as presented having passed second reading.

Chair Brenneman thanked the audience members for coming.

b. STIPEND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

(Action)

Chair Brenneman asked for a motion regarding the Stipend Committee Recommendation as presented.

Trustee Fallon made a motion to approve the Stipend Committee Recommendation as presented.

Trustee Ruby seconded the motion.

Motion Carries.

c. AMARESCO BOILER RECOMMENDATION

(Action)

Chair Brenneman asked for an Elementary Trustee to make a motion regarding the Amaresco Boiler Recommendation.

Trustee Schultz made a motion to accept the Amaresco Boiler Recommendation as presented.

Trustee Ruby seconded the motion.
Motion Carries.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

(Action)

Chair Brenneman asked for a motion regarding the Consent Agenda as presented.
Trustee Ruby made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Trustee Albright seconded the motion.
Motion Carries.

- a. FINANCIAL REPORTS/ BILLS AND PAYROLL** (Consent Agenda)
- b. PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS** (Consent Agenda)
- c. BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION LIST** (Consent Agenda)
- d. FUNDRAISING REQUESTS** (Consent Agenda)
- e. TRAVEL REQUEST** (Consent Agenda)
- f. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS** (Consent Agenda)
- g. MILK BID** (Consent Agenda)
- h. PIZZA BID** (Consent Agenda)
- i. SURPLUS PROPERTY**
- j. NORTHWEST MONTANA CONSORTIUM**

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS

(Information)

Chair Brenneman introduced the next item on the Agenda, Informational Items and Reports.

a. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Ruby suggested that in the interest of time the Board hold off on Trustee Reports until the next meeting.
All Agreed.

b. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Superintendent Flatau reminded the Trustees that there would be no Work Study for the month of July and that the Board Retreat would be incorporated into the August Work Study on August 25th and start around 3pm.
Flatau also recommended cancelling the July Policy Committee meeting and Policy Chair Jack Fallon agreed.

11. ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

Chair Brenneman adjourned the meeting at 7:33 for a short break to reconvene into Closed Session at 7:35.

12. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

The meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 8:04.
Vice Chair Bailey made a motion to accept the recommendation to expel Student #4 for the first semester of the 2015-16 school year.
Trustee Schultz seconded the motion.
Motion Carries.

13. ADJOURN

Chair Brenneman adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.