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Lavina Public School
Regular School Board Meeting
November 12, 2024
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Minutes

On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Ben Lehfeldt called the regular school board meeting to order. Trustees KJ Fauth and Dan Peters, Superintendent Nicole Hanson and Clerk Charly Tatom were in attendance. Guests present were Lisa Carpenter, Frannie Jansen, KC Egge, LouAnn Peters, Emily Mihet, Madison Jones, Brianna Thaut, and Reese Wallis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Approval of Minutes

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2024 regular meeting as presented. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

2. Public Participation/Comments:

None

3. Communications:

- **Trustee's report:** KJ reported on Beef2School initiative, now partnering with Yellowstone Cattle Feeders

- **Student Council:** LouAnn reported that Boo-grams sales went well and Christmas trees were selected for classes. Seniors will serve lunch at the Senior Center every Wednesday.

- **Teacher's organization:** Lisa Carpenter reported on MAST testing, the Christmas Bazaar, upcoming awards, and the FFA trip to Bozeman on Friday.

- **AD's Report:** Francine reported on Jr. High Basketball (ending this week) and the upcoming High School Basketball season starting next week. She's working on tournament plans and a parent meeting to potentially be scheduled for November 25th or 26th.

- **Maintenance Report:** Chrystin Roufley has applied. Hiring will not happen until background check is complete. Mike Tuszynski is starting work on the water line project.

Superintendent's Report:

Grants Update: I am pleased to report that we have been awarded the following grants in the last month:

- We received $120,000 for the Stronger Connections.
- We received $61,900 for the Title I School.

Staff Christmas Party will be on December 6th.

Evaluations: November is the time for non-tenured evaluations. I am currently working on completing these evaluations using the Danielson Model.

Backpack Program: Shelby Farris and Kayla Maki have been doing an outstanding job with the Backpack Program. Thanks to their efforts, they have secured over $5,000 in grant funding, which is vital for the program's success!

Attendance Letters: The office has been sending letters to families when their child misses 5,7, and 10 days of school.

MAST Testing: We are in the midst of MAST testing.

What's Happening Newsletter: Is there anything the Board would like included in the next newsletter? A "Did You Know" column is being considered for discussion.

4 Day Week in the News: A new report from the University of Montana has highlighted some concerns regarding the four-day school week. According to the study:

- Research indicates that student performance tends to decline the longer a district operates under a four-day week, falling behind students in five-day schools.
- Schools with shorter weeks also spend more on instruction, maintenance, transportation, and food compared to those on a five-day schedule. A typical Class-B school in Montana could spend around $100,000 more annually after transitioning to a four-day week.
- While 260 smaller schools have adopted the four-day week since 2005, there is insufficient evidence to confirm if this schedule aids in teacher recruitment and retention, as suggested by some district leaders.
- The authors of the report recommend a return to the five-day school week statewide.

Superintendent Evaluation: Will take place in January. Adam Milligan will administer.

Grant Writer Discussion: Would the Board be interested in discussing the possibility of hiring a grant writer to further support our funding initiatives?

Old Business:
1. **Snow Removal:** No action was taken.

New Business:
1. **Senior Class:** KC Egge reported that the senior class has chosen blue, black, and white for their colors. Graduation will be on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Lavina School Gymnasium. Their class motto is "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened" by Dr. Seuss. Ben made a motion to approve the colors and the date, Dan 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.
2. **MTSUIP Renewal:** Discussion was held and agreed upon. No action taken.
3. **MTSBA Policies for Review (2nd reading):** Policies reviewed and approved. Dan made a motion to approve the policies as presented. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

- MTSBA Model Policy 2161 – Special Education
- MTSBA Model Policy 2161P – Special Education Child Find
- MTSBA Model Policy 2162 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- MTSBA Model Policy 3210 – Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, and Sex Equity
- MTSBA Model Policy 3225 – Sexual Harassment of Students
- MTSBA Model Policy 2160 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement
- MTSBA Model Policy 3600 – Student Records
- MTSBA Model Policy 3600F1 – Notification of Parents and Students of Rights Concerning a Student's School Records
- MTSBA Model Policy 3125 – Education of Homeless Children
- MTSBA Model Policy 3125F – McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Dispute Resolution Form
- MTSBA Model Policy 2510 – School Wellness
- MTSBA Model Policy 2335 – Health Enhancement
- MTSBA Model Policy 8200 – Food Services
- MTSBA Model Policy 5002 – Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- MTSBA Model Policy 5010 – Equal Employment Opportunity, Non-Discrimination, and Sex Equity
- MTSBA Model Policy 5012 – Sexual Harassment of Employees
- MTSBA Model Policy 5322 – Military Leave
- MTSBA Model Policy 5328 – Family Medical Leave (Alternate 1)
- MTSBA Model Policy 5336 - Fair Labor Standards Act
- Model Policy 8420 – District-Wide Asbestos Program

Dan made a motion to approve the bills and payroll as presented. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. KJ 2nd, all in favor, motion passed.

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Chairman of the Board   District Clerk

_____   _____
Date   Date