

**Stevensville Public Schools
School District #2
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Board Work Session

June 21, 2024

9:00 am

MPR/Choir Room

1. Opening of Meeting

Board Chair Ben Meyer lead the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order in the MPR/Choir Room. The trustees present were Dan Mullan, Stephanie Esch, Fran Schmitz, and Nathan Bean. Billy Donaldson, Tony Hudson, and Jennifer Gunterman were not present. Superintendent Dave Thennis, Business Manager/Clerk Christy McLaren were present.

Public Comment –

- A citizen indicated that it is important for the Board to have a pulse on the trenches of the school. On last Wednesday there was a presentation on flags in the school, which the local newspaper ran an article about. There needs to be a paradigm change. When things are better for the teacher it will make it better for the students. The culture must change schoolwide, top to bottom. Twenty-five percent of students are failing in main subjects

Board Comment –

- A trustee stated that the District was well represented at the National History Day Conference.

Superintendent Thennis indicated that he has chosen an Activities and Transportation Coordinator along with a High School Football Coach. They are two separate people and he has a few great candidates for the High School Basketball Coaching position.

2. Budget Discussion

Business Manager, Christy McLaren, distributed budget reports for Elementary and High School General Funds to trustees and explained that the budget reports that were distributed in

the Work Session Packet did not clearly show the funds that are still encumbered and that she felt it was important for the board to see this.

Superintendent Thennis led a discussion regarding increasing lunch prices to help offset increasing food costs. Historically negative balance in our food services fund has been offset with recoding of charges to both the Elementary and High School General Funds. It was decided that this should be a discussion at the July Resource Committee Meeting.

A worksheet with each of the District Funds had been provided by the Board Chair as a template for discussion. Important budget information had been highlighted for the trustees to review. The group worked through the worksheet together.

Superintendent Thennis provided the trustees a summary of the enhancements to the High School Parking lot that the Facility Committee has been working on this past year. Superintendent Thennis has been working with Tyson Watson from Hulteng (the owner's representative from the construction project) to get a design approved and BID's submitted by July 8th so that the work could be completed this summer. Superintendent Thennis indicated that the permissive levies for the Elementary and High School Transportation Funds would need to increase approximately \$100,000 to cover the cost of these enhancements. Trustee Dan Mullan is concerned about a less expensive solution and wanted to know if the Town of Stevensville had been approached and he wanted to speak with the mayor before the district proceeds. A few trustees asked if local contractors were being given the option to bid on the project. Ads for this job had been run in both Missoula and the area newspapers.

The Debt Service Funds were discussed next. The sinking fund loan will be paid off in June of 2026, so Superintendent Thennis indicated that would be the time for a capital improvement project or operational levy to occur. This is a topic that will be discussed at the Resource/Facility Committee level as the trustees indicated they supported this idea. It would be an elementary district levy only, since the sinking fund loan was for the middle school.

Superintendent Thennis discussed the Technology Fund and the recent changes the District has been making regarding technology. Currently the district is switching to the Verkada door lock system with assistance from K12. By the start of the new school year, the District hopes to have all of the new door locks working properly. We currently have a 1 to 1 philosophy (one Chromebook for each student) but not sure how that looks moving into the

future. Question raised if this is an effective use of technology funds. The Technology Levies expire in 2026, so the District needs to decide if these levies need to increase and if so by how much. It was discussed that the District should create a "Technology Committee" to help identify the technology needs of the students, District, etc. to make sure we are using our technology funds effectively.

Discussion about the Elementary and High School General Fund monies. The trustees and Superintendent discussed the following topics:

- We need to do what is best for our students to enable them to have a superior education.
- The district needs to increase teacher salaries.
- Communications need to be clear when passing classroom costs onto students and parents.
- PLC+ program (when adults do better, students do better)
- PLC+ presentation to the Board in October
- Goals need to be measured

Public Comment

- A citizen indicated that they liked the sounds of the PLC+ program

A copy of the Board Self-Evaluation was distributed to all trustees to provide measurable objectives.

A Work Session scheduled on July 9th at 6 pm with the Board meeting to follow starting at 7 pm.

A Work Session scheduled on July 16th at 7 pm.

A new Administration Meeting TBD before school starts. Trustee Nathan Bean will cook the meal.

3. Adjourn

Fran Schmitz motioned to adjourn the board work session. Nathan Bean seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye. The motion passed.

Board Chairman: _____

Date: _____

School Board Clerk: _____