Board of Trustees Board Meeting – March 18, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on March 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Dawn Blain, Amanda Dinsdale, Ken Adams, Kelly Carrington, Kathy Grewell, Kraig Krook, Jason Stene and Karin Williams. Also present were Clark Begger, Superintendent; Mandi Hernandez, MS/HS Principal; Joey Richert, K1-5 Principal, and Felicia Smith, Business Manager/Clerk. Visitors in attendance were: Tammie Grewell, Emily Fanus, Kaleb Price, Keith Frank, Hallie Spoklie-Luoma, Stacie Nardinger, Violet Wilailuck, John Carter, Kristin Bauwens, Levi Lowery.

Dawn Blain called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Blain welcomed guests and asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

III. Reports

a. Student Council – Violet Wilailuck and Keith Frank updated the Board on pep assemblies; the council trip to Salt Lake City; high school fun day; end of year activities (staff/student softball, grad cap decorating); and videos produced by the council. Mr. Price discussed the school play, scholarship letters going out (the scholarship committee is comprised of one board member, 3 community members and one teacher); senior projects are coming up (Kelly Carrington volunteered to be a judge).

b. Elementary Principal – Mr. Richert updated the Board on SOAR assemblies; IAT meetings; Read Across America & Dr. Seuss' Birthday; PAX training; March Madness Book Bracket; End of Q3; Parent/Techer Conferences; Montana Shakes; and testing update.

c. MS/HS Principal – Mrs. Hernandez updated the Board on middle school Science Olympiad; Big Sky regional Science Bowl; World Quest; Q3 middle school SOAR assembly; Tri-County Honor Band; MCTM math competition; District FFA; State BPA; Prom; School Play; Scholarships; clinicals for CNA students; middle school mini courses; middle school IATs; middle school ethnic potluck; Spanish class going to MSU-B; spring banquets; basketball, track and softball.

IV. Consent Agenda: Claims Warrants ACH 99607-99606 & 52173-52225; Payroll Warrants ACH 83838-83751 & 64753-64791; Activity ACH, transfers, checks 17639-17665; Minutes: 02/18/2025 Special Board Meeting; 02/18/2025 regular board meeting; Routine Records Management; Substitute teacher list; New Library Book List. Amanda Dinsdale made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

V. Action Items

A. New Business

1. 2025-2026 Academic Calendar – The Calendar committee met to create options for the 2025-26 academic calendar. Feedback from staff on the options presented culminated in the committee presenting Option 2 to the Board for approval.

   Ken Adams made a motion to approve Option 2 as the 2025-26 academic calendar. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

2. High School General Fund Levy Election -- A high school general fund levy is being considered to provide funding to offset lost revenue from the sunsetting

Trustee Voting Key: (E) Elementary Vote; (H) High School Vote; (B) Both Districts Vote

Transformational Learning Grant and to fund a 1.0 FTE CTE teacher. The Budget Committee met on March 11, 2025 to review preliminary budget information provided by OPI. The Budget Committee is recommending that the Board of Trustees cancel the high school general fund levy election. The Board had a discussion about the general fund levy.

Karin Williams made a motion to run the High School General Fund Levy in the amount of $50,000. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was continued board discussion. Kristin Bauwens offered public comment supporting the decision to run a general fund levy. The motion was passed 6-2; with Jason Stene and Kraig Krook voting no (H).

3. Elementary General Fund Levy Election – An elementary school general fund levy is being considered to provide funding to hire a 5th grade teacher. The Budget Committee met on March 11, 2025 to review preliminary budget information provided by OPI. The Budget Committee is recommending that the Board of Trustees run an elementary general fund levy election in the amount of $50,000. The Board had a discussion about the general fund levy; Jason Stene and Clark Begger provided background information.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to run the Elementary School General Fund Levy in the amount of $50,000. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion. Hallie Spoklie-Luoma asked about kindergarten student numbers; Mr. Richert indicated that there will most likely be a need for two kindergarten classes. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (E).

4. Personnel

Superintendent Begger recommend re-hire of all tenured teachers in the District. Current tenured teachers are: Callie Atkinson, Patricia Bergum-Nafts, Kendall Denham, Emily Fanus, Isaac Fritz, Kristen Goodwin, Gloria Hardy, Cailen Herriford, Kevin Kriskovich, Shay Lind, Jodi Milton, Stacie Nardinger, Alane O'Dore, Marcie Peters, Kaleb Price, Hallie Spoklie-Luoma, George Warburton, and Colette Webber.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to re-hire all of the tenured teachers, who are: Callie Atkinson, Patricia Bergum-Nafts, Kendall Denham, Emily Fanus, Isaac Fritz, Kristen Goodwin, Gloria Hardy, Cailen Herriford, Kevin Kriskovich, Shay Lind, Jodi Milton, Stacie Nardinger, Alane O'Dore, Marcie Peters, Kaleb Price, Hallie Spoklie-Luoma, George Warburton and Colette Webber for the 2025-26 school year. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommended the hiring of Tamera Grewell as a teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the hiring of Tamera Grewell as a teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried with 7 trustees voting yea:

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Dawn Blain, Kraig Krook, Ken Adams, Amanda Dinsdale, Jason Stene, Kelly Carrington and Karin Williams; and Kathy Grewell abstaining (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Ahnna Goodrich as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Amanda Dinsdale made a motion to approve the hiring of Ahnna Goodrich as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Brandy Mettes as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Jason Stene made a motion to approve the hiring of Brandy Mettes as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Ashley Nelson as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the hiring of Ashely Nelson as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Darci Posey as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. This is the 4th (tenure) contract for Mrs. Posey.

Jason Stene made a motion to approve the hiring of Darci Posey as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Chalee Richert as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. This is the 4th (tenure) contract for Mrs. Richert.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the hiring of Chalee Richert as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Salina Koerper as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. This is the 4th (tenure) contract for Ms. Koerper.

Karin Williams made a motion to approve the hiring of Salina Koerper as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Nathan Oren as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. This is the 4th (tenure) contract for Mr. Oren.

Jason Stene made a motion to approve the hiring of Nathan Oren as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Hunter Yordsilp as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. This is the 4th (tenure) contract for Mrs. Yordsilp.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the hiring of Hunter Yordsilp as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of John Counter as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Amanda Dinsdale made a motion to approve the hiring of John Counter as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Issa Sharpe as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Karin Williams made a motion to approve the hiring of Issa Sharpe as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Jason Stene seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Maria Stringari as a teacher and the FFA advisor for the 2025-26 school year.

Jason Stene made a motion to approve the hiring of Maria Stringari as a teacher and the FFA advisor for the 2025-26 school year. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommend hiring of Alec Arana as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the hiring of Alec Arana as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the March 18, 2025 Personnel Action Report.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the March 18, 2025 Personnel Action Report. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

5. Intent to Increase Permissive Levies – State law requires school districts to provide notice to the public of its intent to increase permissive (non-voted) levies in the ensuring fiscal year. The Resolution of Intent was provided to the Board. This notice provides estimates of expected increases and/or decreases, and the impact of those on taxpayers. The notice must be published by March 31, 2025. These are estimates only, and final numbers will not be available until FY25 books are closed and we receive tax valuation numbers from the State in August.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Elementary Levies. Karin Williams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 7-0 (E).

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in High School Levies. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (H).

6. Non-Resident Enrollment Request -- Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approval Student 1, Student 2 and Student 3 for non-resident enrollment for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

Amanda Dinsdale made a motion to approve Student 1, Student 2 and Student 3 for non-resident enrollment for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

7. Policy –

First Reading of Policy 5120 — Hiring Process and Criteria – The Policy Committee reviewed this policy on March 11, 2025 Trustee Dinsdale updated the Board on the Committee's discussion.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 5120. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

First Reading of Policy 2162 P2 — Section 504 Procedures – The Policy Committee reviewed this policy on March 11, 2025 Trustee Dinsdale updated the Board on the Committee's discussion.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 2162 P2. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

First Reading of Policy 2163 — Traffic Education – The Policy Committee reviewed this policy on March 11, 2025 Trustee Dinsdale updated the Board on the Committee's discussion.

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Ken Adams made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 2163. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

First Reading of Policy 2165 and 2165F — Early Literacy Targeted Intervention – The Policy Committee reviewed this policy on March 11, 2025 Trustee Dinsdale updated the Board on the Committee's discussion.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 2165 and 2165F. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

First Reading of Policy 2250F — Adult Ed Form – The Policy Committee reviewed this policy on March 11, 2025 Trustee Dinsdale updated the Board on the Committee's discussion.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 2250F. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

B. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. Discussion/Informational Items – Mr. Begger provided the Board with the following information: Fromberg activities coop; Milligan survey; Todd Family Scholarship; kindergarten roundup; 6-12 master class schedule; facilities logs/master plan; Montana advanced opportunity grant; 02/03/2025 activities committee minutes; 02/10/2025 budget committee minutes; 02/24/2025 negotiations committee minutes; 02/25/2025 activities committee minutes; enrollment update; hiring/staffing update; superintendent's schedule; and Clerk evaluation tool and process.

VII. Correspondence – None.

VIII. Suggested Topics for Next Regular Agenda:
Superintendent Quarterly Review
Consideration of Summer School Teachers
Classified Staff Vacation Payout
Classified Staff Contract Renewals
Review Preliminary Budget Data
Clerk Evaluation
Review Certified Ballots
Fromberg Coop

IX. Executive Session -- Dawn Blain determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session. Mr. Richert was excused from the meeting.

Executive Session began at 9:16 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 9:34 p.m.

Jason Stene made a motion to grant credit to Student A. Amanda Dinsdale seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (H).

X. Next Board Meeting Date

Negotiations Committee – March 31, 2025 4:00 PM
Policy Committee –April 8, 2025 4:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting – April 15, 2025 6:30 p.m. in the library

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Blain adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Approved 04/15/2025 Clerk _____

Board Chair Dawn Blain

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