

**PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT/#5**  
**10 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE SW, PARK CITY, MT 59063**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING-PUBLIC FORUM**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

I. BOARD CHAIR KEVIN HOFFMAN CALLED SPECIAL BOARD MEETING PUBLIC FORUM TO ORDER AT 6:30PM IN THE MULTI PURPOSE ROOM. TRUSTEES PRESENT: AMBER TILZEY, BREANN STRECK, LINDSAY WITT, ABSENT-JONATHAN ALEGRIA; SUPERINTENDENT DAN GRABOWSKA, DISTRICT CLERK LISA REYNOLDS. STAFF MEMBERS: SHELLY MENDENHALL GUESTS: ROGER WEBB, PEGGY WEBB, JD ADAMS, GORDON HIRSCHI, VICKI HIRSCHI, DAVE GAUTHIER, BRIDGET GAUTHIER, STACIE WELLS, MYRON GROSS, DUSTY WEBER, SHELLY LARSON, SAM BOARDMAN, JONATHAN MOSS, KAYLEE MERRILL, SHEA MERRILL, CHRIS RAFFERTY, DAN BRIES, BETH BRIES, RENEE NELSON, BRETT SCOTT, BEN SOUTHWORTH, BOB DOWNING

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG WAS GIVEN.

KEVIN HOFFMAN WELCOMED ALL IN ATTENDANCE.

**III. PRESENTATION OF NYE-HARD ROCK MINING IMPACT PLAN AMENDMENT AND DISCUSSION:** KEVIN HOFFMAN LET THE PUBLIC KNOW WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR YEARS. THE PURPOSE OF THE FORUM IS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHERE WE ARE AT. MR. HOFFMAN INTRODUCED MR. GRABOWSKA TO PRESENT THE TIMELINE. STARTED WORKING WITH THE MINE 10 YEARS AGO REGARDING THE IMPACT MONEY FOR THE DISTRICT. THERE WAS UNKNOWN HISTORY PRIOR TO MR. GRABOWSKA LEARNING ABOUT IT. IT ALL STARTED WITH THE COUNTY DEPOSITING MONEY INTO PARK CITY SCHOOLS ACCOUNT INSTEAD OF ABSAROOKES SCHOOL ACCOUNT. THE COUNTY NUMBERS ARE ONE OFF. THIS SPARKED CURIOSITY. WHEN THE INITIAL IMPACT AID AGREEMENT WAS SET UP THAT ALLOWED SCHOOLS FUNDING THEY FOCUSED ON COLUMBUS, ABSAROOKEE, FISHTAIL AND NYE DUE TO NOT HAVING ANY EMPLOYEES LIVING IN PARK CITY AT THE TIME THAT WE WERE AWARE OF. IN 2001 THE MINE STARTED BUSSING THE EMPLOYEES TO AND FROM THE MINE. MR. GRABOWSKA STARTED WORKING WITH REPRESENTATIVE MANDEVILLE IN 2014. HE WORKED WITH US FOR A LITTLE WHILE AND THEN GOT SHUT DOWN. IN 2016 MR. GRABOWSKA WORKED WITH SENATOR HOWARD ABOUT THIS AND THEN IT GOT SHUT DOWN AGAIN. DURING THAT TIME THE MINE SENT AN EMAIL REQUESTING THE NUMBER OF MINERS' KIDS THAT ATTEND SCHOOL HERE. MR. GRABOWSKA CONTACTED RANDY WYMER(SP?) TO VISIT ABOUT THIS. THEY DISCUSSED THE IMPACT AGREEMENT AND IT WAS TOLD THAT WE DID NOT HAVE THE NUMBERS BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO CHECK IN TO SEE IF WE MEET THE TRIGGERS. TWO YEARS AGO DUSTY WEBER BROUGHT UP WHY WE WERE NOT RECEIVING THE MONIES AND HELPED TO GET THE AMENDMENT GOING BY DOING THE RESEARCH. IN MARCH OF 2023 THE AMENDMENT WAS SENT TO THE MINE, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MINING BOARD AND OTHER EFFECTED COUNTY AREAS (INCLUDING SCHOOLS). COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAD A MEETING IN PARK CITY IN MAY WHERE IT WAS BROUGHT UP DURING PUBLIC COMMENT. NO RESPONSE. THERE WAS TO BE A MEETING SET WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE MINE REPRESENTATIVES. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR THAT MEETING TO HAPPEN. DURING THAT TIME THE MINE AND COMMISSIONERS GOT A MEDIATOR (ATTORNEY) INVOLVED WHICH RESULTED IN A LETTER IN OCTOBER 2023 INDICATING THAT THE PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS NOT ELIGIBLE. THE DISTRICT IN TURN INVOLVED AN ATTORNEY.

HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE TRIGGERS AND IF WE HAVE MET THEM. THAT WAS REVIEWED AND WE ARE ELIGIBLE. WE ARE TO RECEIVE COPIES OF THE POOL AND HAVE NOT. SHOWED THE CHARTS FROM AMENDMENT INDICATING THAT WE ARE THE THIRD BIGGEST SCHOOL WITH MINE STUDENTS. DISCUSSED THE

REVENUE SHARING LAW ALSO. THEY DISTRIBUTE MONEY BASED ON STUDENT COUNT. IT IS MORE THAN THE AGREEMENTS. THE MINE DOES NOT PAY ANY MORE TO INCLUDE US. THE MONEY THAT WOULD COME TO US WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF THE BASE THAT IS GIVEN TO ALL SCHOOLS. BY BEING INCLUDED IN THIS REVENUE SHARE IT WOULD HELP TO LOWER THE TAX BURDEN TO OUR TAX PAYERS. THE METAL MINES MONEY IS ON TOP OF THE BASE. DISCUSSED THE BUDGET ASPECTS. BUDGET NUMBERS WON'T CHANGE. MINING BOARD INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT OUR AMENDMENT REQUEST BECAUSE WE ARE NOT THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY OF RECORD. IT WOULD NEED TO COME FROM STILLWATER COUNTY OR THE MINE TO BE LOOKED AT. A CITIZEN COMPLAINT WAS SENT TO THE MINE BOARD ALSO. STILLWATER COUNTY IS NOT LOOKING OUT FOR US.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON STUDENT NUMBERS (PRESENTATION OF GRAPHS FROM AMENDMENT SHOWN) AND DISCUSSED TAX BASE AGAIN.

SOMEONE ASKED ABOUT THE OTHER SCHOOLS REACTIONS TO THIS. THIS IS DESIGNED FOR A SMALL COMMUNITY LIKE OURS. RENEE NELSON ASKED ABOUT THE FAMILIES OF MINERS AND HOW TO GET THAT INFORMATION OUT. THE COUNTY IS THE VEHICLE TO DO IT. THE COMMISSIONERS NEED TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THIS GOES BEYOND THE SCHOOL. ASKED ABOUT THE MINE BOARD. THEY WERE SYMPATHETIC BUT NOT MUCH OF AN IMPACT. ALL GOES BACK TO THE COUNTY AND THE MINE ITSELF. DISCUSSED THE ADJUDICATION BOARD. DISCUSSED WHO TO CONTACT. EDDIE LORASH UNION PRESIDENT? THE AMENDMENT PLAN INCLUDES BACK PAY. DISCUSSED LEGAL ACTION AND WHAT CAN BE DONE. IT MAY HAVE TO BE DONE LEGALLY. AGAIN BIGGEST ADVOCATE IS THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. DUSTY WEBER WAS DISCUSSING HOW IT IS STUCK ON WHAT WAS INSTEAD OF WHAT IT NEEDS TO BE NOW. THE IMPACT PLAN IS 26 YEARS (AT LEAST) OLD. BOTH THE MINE AND THE COUNTY HAVE ADMITTED THEY ARE NOT GOING TO APPROVE IT. THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THE ECONOMICS BEHIND IT. THERE IS A MEPA REVIEW BOARD THAT MAY GIVE US AN OPPURTUNITY TO VOICE OUR OPINION FOR AN AMENDMENT. DISCUSSED LEGAL OPTIONS, ETC.

DISCUSSION ON WHO ACTUALLY DISTRIBUTES THE MINE MONEY. FURTHER DISCUSSION. DISCUSSED PROPERTY TAX SHARING WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS COMING IN. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON HOW IT ALL BREAKS OUT. DISCUSSED NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN STILLWATER COUNTY. SENDING LETTERS TO THE COMMISSIONERS DO NOT SEEM TO HELP. GENERALLY NO RESPONSE. THE MAIN WAY TO WORK ON IT IS TO SHOW UP AT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS AND PUT A REQUEST IN DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION. DISCUSSED SUPPORT FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD AND OTHER GROUPS. NEED TO INVOLVE MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS. EXHAUST ALL AVENUES BEFORE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. DISCUSSED THE MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSIONERS MEETING IN PARK CITY. THIS MEETING HAS BEEN VERY INFORMATIVE. ALSO THANK YOU FOR HAVING THIS PUBLIC FORUM AS IT GAVE A LOT OF INFORMATION ALSO. DISCUSSED DOING A DOOR TO DOOR WITH PARK CITY RESIDENTS. HANDING OUT FLYER. MAYBE CREATE A COMMITTEE TO COMMUNICATE TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THERE IS A FEELING THAT THE COMMISSIONERS ARE INTENTIONALLY DEPRIVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF INFORMATION.

WE NEED TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE TO THE MARCH COMMISSIONER MEETING. GET INFORMTION INTO A ONE PAGE FLYER TO HAND OUT. DISCUSSED THE POOL FLUCUATIONS AT THE MINE. DISCUSSED THE TRUST THE MINE HAS. DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE SCHOOL MONEY. WE NEED TO GET INFORMATION OUT TO THE COMMUNITY THAT THIS WILL LESSEN TAX BURDEN TO THE TAX PAYERS. THIS IMPACT MONEY WILL LOWER IT. DISCUSSED THE STATE LEVEL AND THE LAWS BEHIND IT. LET THE MINE IMPACT AGREEMENT BE UPDATED. THERE ARE CONCERNS OF NEGATIVE PUSH BACK.

A FACT SHEET NEEDS TO BE DONE. HANDOUTS WERE ASKED FOR.

BOARD CHAIR KEVIN HOFFMAN CALLED MEETING ADJOURNED 7:43PM.

  
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APPROVED

2/20/2004  
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DATE

  
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DISTRICT CLERK

