

**POWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – May 8, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Jennifer Nicholson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. ROLL:

Board Vice-Chair: Jennifer Nicholson.

Board Members: Baylee Brown, Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, Robert Rabel, and Bart Smith.

Administration: Rick Duncan, Katie Crofutt, and Annette Galahan.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Susan Bleken, Kaycee Corbin, Dawn Hagan, Kristin Hansen, Ari Javier, Bill Lombardi, Lexi Lunceford, Sean McConnaha, Paul Pavlik, Genie Ronnemose, Dave Ross, Bob Schalk, Kate Simpson, Clint Stevenson, and Luke Ulatowski.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action: Baylee Brown moved to approve the April 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Will Graveley.

FOR: Baylee Brown, Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, Robert Rabel, and Bart Smith.

ABSTAIN: Jennifer Nicholson.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Rick Duncan received the following resignation letters:

May 5, 2023

To PCHS Administrators and the School Board,

After much deliberation, I have decided to decline your offer for a contract renewal and will resign from my position at the end of this school year.

I would like to thank you for the opportunities that you have provided to me during my formative years as an educator. You have a wonderful staff and administration that helped me immensely and I will miss them dearly.

*Sincerely,
Jace Haynes*

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as my formal 2-week notice of resignation from my position at Powell County High School.

I worked hard for this school for 34 years as a licensed boiler operator, the maintenance engineer, painting, mopping, electrical, mopping and waxing all of the floors. Maintaining the lawns, snow removal and salting. Being in control of maintaining the heat and air. Ordering supplies and picking up deliveries. And much more. I have been loyal, not taking vacation and sick days often at all.

I have gone above and beyond to maintain the school, but I do feel I have nothing left to learn from this position and wish to move on and further my knowledge in my field elsewhere in a better suited environment.

My last day of work will be May 19, 2023.

*Sorry for your loss,
Mark Cease*

Rick Duncan read aloud the following award letter:

April 24, 2023

Congratulations! It's Official – You've Received a Best Communities for Music Education Award.

Congratulations! The NAMM Foundation is proud to recognize your community for the outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who are making music part of a well-rounded education for every child. We salute the commitment of your community to ensure that every child can learn and grow with music.

Rick Duncan read aloud the following 2-year resignation notices:

May 4, 2023

Dear Mr. Duncan and PCHS School Board,

I would like to inform you, Mr. Duncan and the PCHS School Board, I am giving you my two-year notice that I will retire from Powell County High School in June 2025. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to teach at Powell County High School. I loved every minute of it!

*Sincerely,
Maggie Hunter*

May 1, 2023

Mr. Duncan,

I want to inform you, Mr. Duncan, the PCHS Board of Directors, that I am giving you my two-year notice and will retire from Powell County High School in June 2025.

*Thank you,
Bob Schalk, AD*

7. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT:

Council President Jaina Meador was present to discuss recent student activities. Ms. Meador reported that E-Sports wrapped up the year on May 26th with a competition against East Helena, which went well and was lots of fun. FCCLA is currently fundraising to attend the national competition; NHS made breakfast for Teacher Appreciation Week; Student Council will sponsor the annual Clean-Up Day and a Forensics event on Wednesday, May 10th; spring sports in underway; and AP exams, finals, and graduation prep are coming up.

8. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: Math

Susan Bleken and Kristin Hansen were present to discuss the Math Department. Ms. Bleken and Mrs. Hansen began with their years at PCHS, which are 9 and 1 respectively. Together they discussed the work being done in conjunction with the elementary district for curriculum alignment, and provided the following information:

- We've horizontally and vertically aligned our Montana Content State Standards for K-12 mathematics and prioritized them; formatted prioritized standards in one easy to access document for all of K-12, which was then used to select a universal textbook/curriculum series to fit our combined districts.
- We are preparing to purchase a universal textbook/curriculum series to fit our combined districts; identify key vocabulary by grade level and add it to our prioritized standards documents; and continue communication across districts.
- Long-term goals are to build common, formative assessments (CFA) for K-12.

Ms. Bleken and Mrs. Hansen then discussed the program ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces), which is designed to first determine what a student may know and not know, and then provide explanations and practice problems for unknown concepts. AP Calc exams were discussed (taken today) and Mrs. Hansen discussed geometry and her "real world" project, which is a city planning project. The teachers compared the new textbook/curriculum to the old and said that this has been used before with good success, and that they have noticed a disconnect between lessons and homework with the current texts. Samples of the new math texts were provided for Board review.

(15). PUBLIC COMMENT:

Board Chair Nicholson moved Public Comment up to accommodate the Agriculture Department Presentation.

Bill Lombardi was present to discuss the Ag-Ed Department; he discussed fall/spring classed taught and brought some of his textbooks, which include Welding, Welding Skills, Horticulture, Animal Science, Ag Mechanics, and Small Engines; he stated there is no text for Plumbing/Electric. Mr. Lombardi also discussed the dual-credit welding class through Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC), and said that the certification test is this Friday, May 12th at FVCC. Mrs. Nicholson asked if his welding text was outdated or worn out, and Mr. Lombardi said that it doesn't include new technology and plasma cutting. He said he has a lot of kids in welding and would like another class, but he doesn't recommend dropping any current classes. Mr. Lombardi discussed horticulture and PCHS's great facility for the class. Mr. Lombardi proposed adding an Ag-Ed teacher, and said that he's willing to go half-time, or work half-time in another area to facilitate an additional teacher. He also discussed financial literacy, and a potential Ag Math class.

FFA members Lexi Lunceford, Kaycee Corbin, Ari Javier, and Paul Pavlik were present. Ms. Lunceford discussed the FFA Banquet on May 17th at the Elks Lodge, which will include election of new officers, and an auction of services/work labor. Ms. Corbin said that it is amazing that we have our greenhouse and farm; country kids and city kids are all working together! Paul Pavlik said that the farm is really cool and has taught me a lot!

Mr. Lombardi then discussed the farm animals, and that the students learn from gestation, to market, to meat cutting. The Ag I class is fast-paced and there is usually a field trip per week covering all species. In response to Board question, Mr. Lombardi stated that he would like a teacher now as there is a need and a benefit; a jack-of-all-trades kind of person, who is a quality person, is dedicated, and one who teaches self. Mr. Lombardi said that we have a lot to offer with the availability of the farm, shop, and greenhouse. The topic of FWP wanting a parking lot on the north end of the farm property was brought up, with some conversation about coyotes killing lambs, etc.

Board Chair Nicholson moved back to the order of the agenda.

9. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT:

Bob Schalk was present to discuss the end of spring sports. Mr. Schalk said that the golf divisional was today and tomorrow, May 8-9th in Eureka, and then state golf is in Shelby. The track district meet is this weekend, May 12-13th, and the divisional meet the next week in Missoula. Softball plays a tournament in Butte Central May 12-13th, and the divisional tournament is the next week. Mr. Schalk said that there has been lots of rain this season, then added, "and now I'd like to talk about my History program," to much laughter.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Employment Contracts – Extracurricular Coaches

Athletic Director

Action: Robert Rabel moved to rehire Bob Schalk as Athletic Director for 2023-24, seconded by Maureen Mannix.

Discussion: Katie Crofutt said that Mr. Schalk is doing a fantastic job!

The motion passed unanimously.

Football

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to rehire Head Coach Andrew Verlanic, and Assistant Coaches Mac Bignell, Shane Spears, and Justin Best for 2023-24, seconded by Bart Smith.

The motion passed unanimously.

Volleyball

Action: Will Graveley moved to rehire Head Coach Kimberly Lamb, and Assistant Coaches Haley Owens and Paeton Ohs for 2023-24, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson

The motion passed unanimously.

Speech & Debate

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to rehire Speech & Debate Coach Sean McConnaha for 2023-24, seconded Baylee Brown.

The motion passed unanimously.

Boys Basketball

Action: Robert Rabel moved to rehire Head Coach Will Pauley, and Assistant Coaches Justin Marshall and Tristan Smith for 2023-24, seconded by Bart Smith.

The motion passed unanimously.

Girls Basketball

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to rehire Head Coach Bill Clayton, and Assistant Coaches Paeton Ohs and Kate Simpson for 2023-24, seconded by Will Graveley.

Discussion: Baylee Brown asked if all resignations have been received from previous coaches, and Bob Schalk said yes. Jennifer Nicholson asked who decides the lineup of assistant coaches, and Mr. Schalk said the Head Coach.

The motion passed unanimously.

Wrestling

Action: Will Graveley moved to rehire Head Coach Austin Micu, and Assistant Coach J.R. Slaughtner, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Cheerleading

Done last month.

E-Sports

Done last month.

Extra-Duty Advisors

Action: Baylee Brown moved to rehire the Co-Curricular (Extra-Duty) Advisors for 2023-24, seconded by Will Graveley (list attached).

The motion passed unanimously.

Certified Master Agreement 2023-2024

Rick Duncan stated that the committees are not quite there yet, and hopefully an agreement will be reached for the June meeting.

School Calendar 2023-2024

Action: Baylee Brown moved to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Second Reading Board Policies:**BP2120: Curriculum Development and Assessment**

Rick Duncan stated that last month Maureen Mannix proposed putting the CRT policy in to BP2120 and BP2330, and asked the Board where it would like the policy to go; he added that CRT goes into the Staff Handbook as procedure. He also said there will be a link to the Attorney Generals report in the policy. Bart Smith said that he likes is at the beginning of the policy, Will Graveley suggested in BP2120 before the last paragraph, and Baylee Brown said to leave it as is. More discussion took place regarding the CRT Statement, and Ms. Brown asked if legal counsel would review the statement. There was much confusion about where the statement would reside, and Mrs. Mannix said that the CRT Statement “legal references” were approved in the minutes, and Clint Stevenson said that his understanding was that we were adding the entire CRT Statement document into the Staff Handbook and a link in the policy. Robert Rabel said that we need to back up and that now is the prudent time to re-do this. Mrs. Brown said she doesn’t feel comfortable adding the statement to the policy, and Mr. Smith said that we need clarification. Mr. Graveley said that it’s more important to the complete statement in the Staff Handbook. A consensus was reached that the full-page CRT Statement will be in the Staff and Curriculum Handbooks, with legal reference. It will be procedure.

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to insert “Critical Race Theory” following the 4th paragraph after “revising **standard**,” and insert legal references as per legal counsel, seconded by Baylee Brown.

The motion passed unanimously.

BP2330: Controversial Issues and Academic Freedom

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to insert “Critical Race Theory” after the 3rd paragraph, and insert legal references as per legal counsel, seconded by Will Graveley.

The motion passed unanimously.

BP3151: Random Drug Testing

Mr. Duncan said it is really **BP3551** and that our changes (20% of student to number of 15 students were BP3151; he said this is on the agenda due to interest.

Action: Robert Rabel moved to change BP3551 to read “only be tested while in an activity,” seconded by Baylee Brown.

Discussion: Will Graveley asked how many kids are in just 1 sport, and Katie Crofutt answered that most extracurricular students are year-round, and the point is that we don’t want to waste time taking a student in and out of the pool. Ms. Brown is concerned about kids being tested over and over again and said the majority of survey takers like the idea of being in the pool during a season. Maureen Mannix said that students came to the Board to advocate for the drug-testing policy, and that keep trying to take it away. Jennifer Nicholson pointed out that the Board discussed the policy over the course of 13 monthly meetings.

FOR: Baylee Brown, Robert Rabel, and Bart Smith.

AGAINST: Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, and Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion fails due to a tie vote.

Terminate Temporary Emergency Policies: 1900 Series

Action: Baylee Brown moved to terminate the 1900 series of Temporary Emergency Policies, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Student Handbook

Action: Robert Rabel moved to approve the Student Handbook for 2023-24, seconded by Baylee Brown.

The motion passed unanimously.

Curriculum Handbook

Action: Will Graveley moved to approve the Curriculum Handbook for 2023-24, seconded by Baylee Brown.

The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Handbook

Wait until June.

Athletic Handbook

Wait until June.

Class Schedule

Action: Baylee Brown moved to approve the Class Schedule for 2023-24, seconded by Will Graveley.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOU Powell County Clerk & Recorder Office: Elections

Rick Duncan presented the MOU for the Powell County to run the annual school election, in effect for 10 years, or until terminated in writing by one or both parties.

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Powell County High School District and the Powell County Clerk & Recorder, seconded by Bart Smith.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Katie Crofutt reported the May 8, 2023 enrollment of 174 students (a decrease of 2 from last month), and consists of the following: 49 freshman, 56 sophomores, 37 juniors, and 32 seniors. Included in the count are 0 Job Corp students, and 0 Youth Challenge students. Mrs. Crofutt said that 2 moved to home school. Mrs. Crofutt discussed the REACH Symposium and field trip, the annual 8th grader visit to the high school and shadowing, and AP tests this month for government, language, and calculus. Mrs. Crofutt added that Teacher Appreciation Week is this week and NHS will cook breakfast tomorrow morning, and there is a parent-sponsored lunch on Thursday. All 32 seniors are on track to graduate on May 28th. Valedictorians are Skyla Pierson, Ashton Bledsoe, and Jaina Meador; Salutatorian is Mary Hansen; and the graduation speaker is Dakota Norris.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Rick Duncan gave a Covid update and stated that there have been no changes. Mr. Duncan said he will provide a hard copy of the final legislation to the Board, and that Joint Board surveys are complete by the MTSBA and there will be a Joint Board meeting on Wednesday, May 10th at the CPC.

13. BUSINESS MANAGER

Annette Galahan provided an updated revenues/expenditures spreadsheet through March 2023. There were no questions.

Action: Robert Rabel moved to approve the May bills, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson. The motion passed unanimously.

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Approving the ELA and math.
- Staff Handbook.
- Athletic Handbook.
- Gaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

s/Annette Galahan, District Business Manager/Clerk

s/Jennifer Nicholson, Board Chair