

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Brockton School District Office
Monday, December 16, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Present: Board Chair Sammy Nygard, Trustee Terry Rattling Thunder, Trustee Olivia Johnson, Trustee Rae Jean Belgarde

Absent: Trustee Wilfred Lambert

Also Present: Beth Ketcher, Superintendent Josh Patterson, Principal Evan Cummins, and District Clerk Cheri' Nygard

1. CALL TO ORDER – SALUTE TO FLAG

Chairman Sammy Nygard called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS / PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Members of the audience are encouraged to briefly address the trustees on an issue that is not on the agenda. The Chair of the Board will seek comments from the audience on significant items as they occur. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order.

2A Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

3. REPORTS – Information

3A Principal Report – Evan Cummins

Principal, Evan Cummins, reviewed student attendance, discipline, and events this month and next. Rae Jean asked if we are going to do anything special for the JH basketball team for their championship. Mr. Cummins is working on sweatshirts and Sammy said he would sponsor that. They will also organize a potluck and recognize the team during the game.

3B Athletic Director Report – Emerson Young

The athletic director report was included in the board packet and reported on basketball and cheerleading and district placement.

3C Superintendent Report – Josh Patterson

Superintendent Patterson reported on the progress of the main entrance, library project, kitchen walk-in clinic and the weight room exterior door. Superintendent Patterson also reviewed his upcoming schedule.

4. CONSENT ITEMS – Board Action

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the November 12, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting Minutes. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Rattling Thunder to approve the Elementary and High School Districts #55-55F Warrants and Claims as presented. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Belgarde to approve the student accounts financial report for October 2024. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

5. PERSONNEL – RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, & HIRES

5A Resignations

The following resignations were accepted by Superintendent Patterson:

Norma Big Crow	Assistant Cook
Sunni Hilde	Paraprofessional

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Rattling Thunder to acknowledge the resignations of Norma Big Crow and Sunni Hilde. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

5B Hires – Substitutes

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to hire Norma Big Crow as a Substitute Cook for the 2024-2025 school year. It was noted to make sure all employees are fit for duty to keep them safe. No further discussion.

Vote: Five for, none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to hire Sunni Hilde as a Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. No further discussion.

Vote: Five for, none opposed. Motion carried.

5C Hires – Extracurricular

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Mr. Rattling Thunder to approve to hire the extracurricular staff as follows with no further discussion:

RaeAnne Edmisten	Cheerleading Sponsor – 2 nd Semester
Heather Youpee	Elementary Girls Basketball Coach

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

5D Hires – Student Workers

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Belgarde to approve to hire Kameron Rattling Thunder as a student worker and Quannah First That Walks as a Substitute Student Worker. No further discussion.

Vote: Three for, none opposed. Terry Rattling Thunder abstained. Motion carried.

5E Hires – Classified Staff

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Belgarde to hire LaVonne Black Dog as an Assistant Cook. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

6. DISTRICT ACTION TO FORMALLY OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH BROCKTON TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (BTA)

Superintendent Patterson recommended the board formally open negotiations with the Brockton Teachers Association (BTA). The BTA Collective Bargaining Agreement states that the agreement will automatically be renewed and will continue in force and effect for additional periods of one year unless the Association or the District give notice to the other, not later than March 1st prior to the aforesaid expiration date or any anniversary of the Agreement and/or additions to this Agreement, and to negotiate over the terms of these provisions.

Sammy Nygard and Rae Jean will represent the board for negotiations. The negotiations team will meet to put an offer together. The state is making an effort to boost beginning teacher wages. There may be language to start looking at to negotiate into the contract in regards to the Stars Act that aims to put more money towards increasing teacher wages.

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Belgarde to formally open negotiations with the Brockton Teachers Association. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

7. CONSIDER AMENDING 'POLICY 7320: PURCHASING'

Superintendent Patterson recommended to amend 'Policy 7320: Purchasing' to increase spending authority of the Superintendent to \$25,000 and to update the policy with new language from MTSBA regarding Purchasing to align with Montana Codes.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve to amend 'Policy 7320: Purchasing' policy to increase spending authority of the Superintendent to \$25,000 and to update the policy with new language from MTSBA regarding Purchasing to align with Montana Codes. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

8. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 'PAYROLL ADVANCE POLICY 5338'

The board previously approved a payroll advance policy and Superintendent Patterson recommended to add it to the policy manual as 'Policy 5338: Payroll Advances' with the following language:

Payroll advances will only be considered for the following special occasions: funerals for immediate family members, serious family illness within the immediate family, Senior graduation, and State tournaments. Payroll advances will be capped at up to a maximum of \$700 per occasion and must be paid back entirely at the next regularly scheduled pay period. All payroll advance requests must be pre-approved by the Superintendent.

The board also held discussion about adding the Native American Classic Basketball Tournament as a special occasion for advances and that all payroll advance requests must be approved at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The agenda item was tabled to be reworded and brought back to the next meeting.

9. CONSIDER AMENDING 'PROCEDURE 2410-P(1): HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS'

The board has held discussion on language to address the Montana Youth Challenge Academy and graduation requirements. The following language is suggested to add to the policy book under

Procedure 2410-P(1) High School Graduation Requirements' as follows:

The Brockton School District #55F permits the awarding of a Brockton High School diploma and participation in the Senior Graduation Ceremony to any Brockton High School/MYCA student who meets the following criteria: 1) Be 16 years of age or older, 2) Completes the Montana Youth Challenge Academy program of study, 3) Passes the HiSET exam before the date of the Senior Class Graduation Ceremony, 4) Receives an endorsement from the Brockton School District Board of Trustees.

The board held discussion about requiring a combined minimum of 20 credits and to take out board approval.

The agenda item was tabled to be reworded and brought back to the next meeting.

10. CONSIDER AMENDING 'PROCEDURE 5334-P(1): VACATIONS'

Superintendent Patterson recommended to add language to Procedure 5334-P(1) to address annual pay-outs of accumulated vacation leave as follows:

Annual Pay-Out

The District may, in its sole discretion, provide cash compensation in June of each year for unused vacation leave in lieu of the accumulation of vacation leave.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve amending the procedure as proposed regarding vacation leave pay. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

11. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION REGARDING SENIOR STUDENT HONORS FOR RETURNING SENIOR STUDENT –EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION POSSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 2-3-203(3), MCA.

The board considered whether or not to allow graduation honors for a second-year senior. It was determined that the matter of individual privacy is involved and the meeting was closed for an executive session.

Chairman Sammy Nygard called for executive session at 6:48 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 6:54 p.m.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Mr. Rattling Thunder to approve the student to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a Brockton high school diploma if requirements are met, but not to allow the student to be eligible for senior graduation honors. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR FORT PECK TRIBAL DIABETES PROGRAM TO PERFORM SCREENINGS

The district received a request from the Fort Peck Tribal Diabetes Program to access the school system during the school year(s) starting Fall of 2025 to perform student health screenings.

The board would like to see the consent form and know if it will be a conflict with HPDP.

The agenda item was tabled to gather information to bring back to the next meeting.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO UPDATE INDEPENDENCE BANK SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

Superintendent Patterson recommended the board update the Independence Bank Signature Authority to remove Ron Shanks and Doreen Martin and add Assistant Clerk, Amy Heller. The other signers approved on the account are Superintendent, Josh Patterson and District Clerk, Cheri' Nygard.

Motion: Made by Mr. Rattling Thunder and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve to update the Independence Bank Signature Authority to remove Ron Shanks and Doreen Martin and add Assistant Clerk, Amy Heller. No further discussions.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE WIPFLI AUDIT CONTRACT

Superintendent Patterson recommended the board approve a change order to the WIPFLI Audit Contract to include preparation and maintenance of the Districts fixed asset schedule. The fee will be based on the amount of time required to complete the engagement at their standing billing rates.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the change order to the WIPFLI Audit Contract to include preparation and maintenance of the Districts fixed asset schedule

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

15. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO OPEN A HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL JMG STUDENT ACCOUNT

The Brockton High School and Middle School students participate in the Jobs for Montana (JMG) program and at times hold fundraisers for JMG-related travel and activities. Superintendent Patterson recommended the board approve to open student accounts for the High School JMG and the Middle School JMG student programs.

Motion: Made by Ms. Belgarde and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve to open student accounts for the High School JMG and the Middle School JMG student programs. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS

The board considered approval of a Christmas Bonus to approximately 50 contracted staff members. The estimated cost to the Impact Aid fund is \$5,120 per \$100.

Motion: Made by Mr. Rattling Thunder and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve a \$500 Christmas bonus to contracted staff members. No further discussion.

Vote: Three for, Ms. Belgarde opposed. Motion carried.

17. ADJOURN

Motion: Made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Belgarde to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. No further discussion.

Vote: Four for, none opposed. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Sammy Nygard, Board Chair


Cheri' Nygard, District Clerk

