Special Board Meeting

February 17, 2021 7:00 p.m.  Music Center Choir Room

1. Opening of meeting – Call to Order – Present – Salute to Flag:

Chairwoman Cathi Cook called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Center Choir Room (Also Broadcast via Zoom). Cathi led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Trustees present were Sean Lenahan, Ben Meyer (Zoom), Michele Fauth, Billy Donaldson, Sarah Armijo, Kris McKoy and Nick Gerhard. Superintendent Bob Moore, Brian Gum, Tracey Rogstad, Jessica Shourd, Nate Fry, Eric Larson, Chance Edman and Business Manager/Clerk Bill Schiele were present.

2. Approval of Claims:

There were no claims to approve.

3. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment:

Board Comment:

Sarah Armijo congratulated the Speech and Debate team for the great success they had this year.

Public Comment:

There was no Public comment.

4. Business: Items for Action:

A. Employment – Administrative Assistant/Webmaster – Kathryn Kowal

Superintendent Bob Moore told the Board the district has conducted an interview and the recommendation is for the hiring of Kathryn Kowal as an Administrative Assistant/Webmaster
for the 2020-2021 school year. Sean Lenahan made a motion to hire Kathryn Kowal as an
Administrative Assistant/Webmaster for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Billy
Donaldson seconded the motion. All voted aye.

B. Mask Mandate for Stevensville Public School

Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board and the audience that Governor Gianforte has
lifted the mask mandate last week that Governor Bullock had put in place. Cathi told the Board at
a prior board meeting that the Board made a motion to follow Governor Bullock’s mask order.
Bob told the Board his recommendation is to have a mask order in place here at the district to keep
the employees and students safe and to keep the doors open here at the district. Bob told the Board
under policy 8301 he has the authority to keep the staff and students safe and that he mandated a
mask order for the district until the Board can make a decision on wearing masks. Bob also talked
about SB 65 that the governor signed, which limits liability to businesses, but it excludes schools.
Each Board member expressed their concerns about having a mask order here at the district. After
comments from the Board and the audience in attendance and by zoom on the governor’s decision
to lift the mask order, the pros and cons on wearing masks, if masks really protect people from
getting the virus, scientific data on the virus and about wearing masks, policy 8301 and the
authority the superintendent has with this policy, if the district should survey the staff, parents and
students for their opinion on a mask mandate and what happens if the Board cannot come to an
agreement on mask wearing, Kris McKoy made a motion to wear masks as recommended by the
Center for Disease Control and to reevaluate this decision monthly, which will be based on cases
here at the district. Michele Fauth seconded the motion. Ben Meyer, Michele Fauth, Cathi Cook
and Kris McKoy voted aye. Sean Lenahan, Billy Donaldson, Sarah Armijo and Nick Gerhard
voted nay. Motion failed.

After more discussion on what is best for the staff and students here at the district and how
to keep the doors open at the district, Sarah Armijo made a motion to make masks optional and to
revisit this option based on current cases in the area and not to put the decision making in one
person’s hands, but for the Board to make this decision. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. Ben
Meyer, Michele Fauth, Cathi Cook and Kris McKoy voted nay. Sean Lenahan, Billy Donaldson,
Sarah Armijo and Nick Gerhard voted aye. Motion failed.

The Board took a 5 minute break.

After returning from the break, there was more discussion on a mask order. Michele Fauth made a motion to continue wearing masks and for the administration to conduct a survey to the parents, staff and students and to continue this meeting next week after the district has completed the survey. Billy Donaldson seconded the motion. After comments on the type of survey and how the Board will use the information in the survey, the Board voted on the motion. Ben Meyer, Sean Lenahan, Michele Fauth, Billy Donaldson, Cathi Cook and Kris McKoy voted aye. Sarah Armijo and Nick Gerhard voted nay.

5. Adjourn:

Billy Donaldson made a motion to continue this meeting until next week so the district can do a survey of staff, parents and students. Sean Lenahan seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Board Chairman: Signed Copy on File in District Office.

Date: March 9, 2021.

School Board Clerk: Signed Copy on File in District Office.