

HARLEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Board Meeting
March 21, 2023

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Johnathan Walker called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Trustees present were Johnathan Walker, Kathleen Adams, Leslie J. Horn and Valerie Blackcrow. Mike King was absent. Dr. Arlene Bigby, Superintendent, Cassie Handran, Business Manager/Clerk and 32 guests.

A. GUESTS AND DELEGATIONS

- a. Delegations: Amelia Blackcrow, Senior, gave some information on the Senior trip to Spokane, WA and asked that the Board call for a Special Meeting in order to approve their trip on time.
- b. Public Comment Guidelines – Board Chair
- c. Public Comment

B. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve the Consent Agenda items as listed.

Consent Agenda items (Can all be done in one motion.)

1. Minutes of the 1/27/23, 2/1/23, 3/3/23 Special Meetings; 2/15/23 Working Meeting; and 2/21/23 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Payroll Warrant numbers 79844-79887 in the amount of \$706,499.94.
3. Claim Warrant numbers 19610-19644 in the amount of \$161,580.38 and void checks 19592, 19595, and 19600.
4. Student Account check number numbers 22439-22466 in the amount of \$11,949.56 and void checks 22402 and 22450.
5. Purchase Orders over \$10,000:
 - N/A

Sub/Volunteer list with the District reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check:

- Lauren Scheffelmaer as substitute clerical at \$18.53/hr.
- Ninadawn Bearcub as District wide substitute.
- Nathan Black Wolf and Jeremy Walker as **volunteer** 5 & 6th grade basketball coach.
- Crystal Doney as **volunteer** JH track coach.

Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

C. PROGRAM REPORTS

Dr. Arlene Bigby, Cassie Handran, Evelyn Bigby, Jessica Cochran, Corey Barron, Paul Condon, and James Hodgson reviewed their written reports.

D. ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR NON VOTED LEVIES

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to adopt the Notice of Intent to Increase/(Decrease) Non-voted Levies for the 2023-2024 SY.

State law (MCA 20-9-116) requires the District to provide notice of its intent to increase/decrease non-voted levies in the ensuing fiscal year. However, understanding the District’s tax structure requires considering all levies – both voted and non-voted. To reduce confusion and increase transparency, this notice contains projections for all of the Districts levies:

Elementary:

Fund	Current Year Levies		2023-24 Projections				Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$200K home
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills		
General	\$ 117,758	31.75	\$ 117,750	31.76	\$ (8)	0.01	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.02
Transportation	\$ 100,816	27.19	\$ 75,800	20.45	\$ (25,016)	(6.74)	\$ (9.10)	\$ (18.20)
Bus Depreciation	\$ 36,906	9.95	\$ 61,000	16.45	\$ 24,094	6.50	\$ 8.78	\$ 17.56
Tuition	\$ 3,067	0.83	\$ 3,100	0.84	\$ 33	0.01	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.02
Building Reserve Permissive	\$ 20,650	5.57	\$ 20,444	5.51	\$ (206)	(0.06)	\$ (0.08)	\$ (0.16)
Grand Total	\$ 279,197	75.29	\$ 278,094	75.01	\$ (1,103)	(0.28)	\$ (0.38)	\$ (0.76)

High School:

Fund	Current Year Levies		2023-24 Projections				Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$200K home
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills		
General	\$ 74,625	17.17	\$ 74,625	17.24	\$ 0	.007	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.18
Transportation	\$ 72,981	16.87	\$ 73,000	16.87	\$ 19	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Bus Depreciation	\$ 18,597	4.3	\$ 18,600	4.3	\$ 3	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Tuition	\$ 6,311	1.46	\$ 6,315	1.46	\$ 4	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Building Reserve Permissive	\$ 10,700	2.47	\$ 10,759	2.49	\$ 59	0.02	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.06
Grand Total	\$ 183,215	42.24	\$ 183,299	42.36	\$ 84	0.09	\$.012	\$ 0.24

This notice must also document the District’s expected use of its Building Reserve State Major Maintenance levies and associated funding (MCA 20-9-502). This year, the District expects to use those proceeds to partially fund capital improvements approved by the Board on February 16, 2022, as well as operational costs of school safety. This funding structure will generate \$66,370 for Elementary and \$34,800 for High School during 2023-2024, with no net cost to local taxpayers.

All estimates are based on projected taxable values. If the District’s taxable values increase more than expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increases will be less than presented here. These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August.

Please contact the Business Office at (406)353-2289 or cassieh@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us if you have questions or need additional information.

Second by Mike King, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

E. ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Motion by Leslie J. Horn to hire Kelly Messerly to teach an Adult Education regalia making class: a total of 16 hours at \$25/hr. for \$400. Second by Mike King, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

F. GRANT WRITING PRESENTATION

Postponed until a later meeting.

G. APPOINT IMPACT AID PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Motion by Mike King to appoint Willowa ‘Sis’ Horn, Diana Bigby, and Michelle Sears to the Impact Aid Parent Advisory Committee. Second by Leslie J Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

H. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS FOR 2022-23 EXTRA CURRICULAR POSITIONS

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to hire Clayton Talks Different and Tescha Hawley as JH Track coach for the 2022-23 S.Y. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

I. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS FOR 2022-23 CLASSIFIED STAFF

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to hire Laney Cole as Part-time Custodian for the 22-23SY, per the CBA, with the District reserving the right to withdraw the offer based on the background check. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

J. 2022-2023 ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT AMENDMENT

1. Motion by Mike King to approve contract amendment for Paul Condon, adding the taxable housing benefit for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Johnathan Walker, motion carried 3 for, 1 against (Blackcrow), 1 absent (Adams).
2. Motion by Mike King to approve contract amendment for Corey Barron adding a \$100 cell phone stipend for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Valerie Blackcrow, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).
3. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Shawnae King, adjusting hourly rate from \$18.67 to \$20.49 for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).
4. Motion by Mike King to approve contract amendment for Kelly Messerly, adjusting hourly rate from to \$18.67 to \$20.00 for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).
5. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Jessica Cochran, adjusting salary from \$60,320 to \$70,000 for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion **failed** 4 against, 1 absent (Adams).
6. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Jessica Cochran providing Employee/Child Health Insurance coverage paid by the District for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn motion **failed** 2 for, 2 against (King, Blackcrow) 1 absent (Adams).
7. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Evelyn Bigby, adjusting salary from \$67,756 to \$74,468.64 for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).
8. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Evelyn Bigby and Jessica Cochran making their contract 210 days long for the 2022-23 SY, and adjusting annual salary to reflect the increase in days. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).
9. Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve contract amendment for Hilary Handy, adjusting salary from \$57,778.24 to \$60,089.36 for the 2022-23 SY. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion **failed** 4 against, 1 absent (Adams).

K. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTS FOR 2023-24 TENURED CERTIFIED STAFF

Motion by Leslie J. Horn to renew the following Tenured Elementary Certified Staff for SY 2023-24 with salary to be negotiated at a later date:

- Cathy Bear
- June Bullinsight
- Kim Cornell
- Morris Denham
- Michelene Edwards
- Suzanne Farmer
- Amanda Frank
- Michelle Gorecki
- Rhawnee Hopkins
- Kerry Johnson
- Nancy Kinyon
- Jenna Kittson
- Bonnie Mount
- John Orsborn
- Sonia Phalen-Powell
- Laura Pruttis
- Melody Sand
- Kathleen Turntoes
- Rhonda Yellow-Crantz
- Angie Young

Second by Valerie Blackcrow, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

Motion by Leslie J. Horn to renew the following Tenured Jr/Sr. High Certified Staff for SY 2023-24 with salary to be negotiated at a later date:

- Winona Azure
- Donna Barber-Schneider
- Crystal Doney
- Hope Doney
- Eleanor Doucette
- Kimberly Faulkinberry
- Lyle Faulkinberry
- Brigitte Hagan
- Heidi Harris
- James Hodgson
- Erik Murri
- Bonnie Nessler
- Mary-Kate Nienhuis-French
- Daniel Owens
- Wendy Plumage-Maratita
- Robe Walker

Second by Valerie Blackcrow, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

L. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RENEW OR NON-RENEW 2023-24 NON-TENURED CERTIFIED STAFF

Motion by Leslie J. Horn to renew the following non-tenured Elementary Certified Staff for SY 2023-24 with salary to be negotiated at a later date:

- Ken Bigby
- Thomas Molina
- Sheena Pursley
- Ruth Stephenson
- Jolee Day
- Kristi Rivera

Second by Mike King, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to renew the following non-tenured Jr/Sr High Certified Staff for SY 2023-24 with salary to be negotiated at a later date:

- Courtney Bell
- Ronald Donceras
- Harry Green
- Heather Jorgenson
- James Kobeski
- Wilma Mellville
- Kayla Messerly
- John Stiffarm
- Nancy Stiffarm
- Kylie Urie
- Trenton Woodward

Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

M. TERMINATION OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE – POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to terminate the employment of Tamera Goldsmith as a Paraprofessional for Harlem Schools. Second by Mike King, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

N. UN-ENROLLMENT BASED ON BOARD POLICY 3121 – STUDENT ENROLLMENT & BOARD POLICY 3122 – ATTENDANCE POLICY

None at this time.

O. MOU WITH CLASSIFIED UNION

Motion by Valerie Blackcrow to approve MOU with the Classified Union adding June 19th to the CBA as a paid holiday and to the school calendar. Second by Leslie J. Horn, motion carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).

P. ADOPT 2023-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Decision to stay on a 5 day schedule or move to a 4 day schedule will be made at a Special Board Meeting on April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Q. HEU LEVEL III GRIEVANCE

The Board requested that the HEU extend their response in order to gather more information surrounding the grievance. It will be revisited at a Special Board Meeting on April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

R. ADJOURN

A Regular Board Meeting was set for April 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Motion by Leslie J. Horn to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Second by Johnathan Walker, carried 4 for, 1 absent (Adams).