

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LOCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #26
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, BILLINGS, MT
WORK SESSION MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

November 8, 2016

Chair Tim Sather opened the work session meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The following trustees and officers were present: Trustees Susanne Vinton, Tim Sather, Scott Kiekover, Teresa Stroebe, Superintendent Tobin Novasio and District Clerk Laurie Noonkester. Trustees Michelle Gomez, Kat Luhman and Joe Borgstrom were absent from the proceedings.

Superintendent Novasio began by thanking the Trustees for agreeing to meet with the students to hear their issues and concerns.

Guests included Eileen Johnson Middle School students, parents, English Teacher Shelly Ryan, Principal Gordon Klasna and Assistant Principal Kelly Kinsey. Dan Carter with ExxonMobil was also in attendance.

The Lockwood Board of Trustees met in a work session to listen to suggestions from Middle School students on various issues they feel are impacting their school experience.

Student Kaitlyn Sauza spoke regarding the dress code and highlighted the standards she agreed upon within the code.

Student Brooklyn Adams also addressed dress code and presented her reasoning as to why she personally disagrees with the standards. Miss Adams did note however, she finds the EJMS dress code is more forgiving than most, provided the wearer adhere to basic modesty standards.

Mrs. Ryan reported that in overall discussions with the students she is finding most agree the codes are fair.

Student Nickolas Wroot spoke to the issue that ICU class times then leads to a very constrictive time crunch for lunch. His main concern is that if students attend ICU it takes from their lunch period and when arriving to eat, the remaining food choices are very limited. Mr. Wroot further noted the email notices to home do not reflect the fact that the missing homework assignment has been completed the same day during ICU class. He feels the delayed reporting could lead to unwarranted additional discipline by the attendees' parents.

Mrs. Ryan noted the success of the ICU program, stating her class is currently missing only 2 out of 140 assignments, which is remarkable.

Student Danny Granot addressed the pros and cons of cell phone use in the classroom setting, with his biggest concern being that not all students have the same opportunity as they do not have access to smart phone technology.

Mrs. Ryan stated she does not have many problems with cell phone use in the classroom and those students who do have smart phones willingly share with those who do not.

Student Bon Frimodig suggested the school implement a more active recycling program. He noted the benefits and revenue possibilities that can result from recycling programs.

The Trustees agreed to investigate more recycling options.

Trustee Scott Kiekover asked if the cost of sorting receptacle containers have been investigated. Facilities Director Marc Dearing was asked to find pricing for the sorting containers.

Student Kyra Deming spoke to the quality and quantity of the food being served to students. She did note the affordability of lunch is a positive but the portions and options leave most kids still hungry.

Superintendent Novasio suggested the students create a group to address lunch issues so they can meet with Sodexo and the Administration to find solutions.

Student Eva Richard spoke to the benefits of an outdoor learning classroom. She noted various medical studies have proven there are physical and psychological benefits from using outdoor learning environments.

Trustee Susanne Vinton noted there was a master plan of the grounds that did provide for this type of outdoor learning environment and perhaps the plan should be reviewed for further study.

Student Reed Cook apologized for being late and spoke to the detriment of homework and how students have other duties and obligations that take precedence over homework. He further commented that homework keeps students from getting proper sleep and adds much overtime work to be performed by teachers.

Trustee Scott Kiekover commented that he would have to see data ensuring students would do the work within class time before he was to discuss doing away or limiting homework requirements. Mr. Novasio commented that the teams are addressing this very topic.

Trustee Teresa Strobe commented that each student speaking tonight has displayed leadership skills by bringing their issues for discussion and thanked them for their input.

Lockwood Chairman Tim Sather concluded the work session by thanking those for attending and bringing well presented issues.

The work session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Tim Sather, Chairperson

Laurie Noonkester, District Clerk