The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Florence-Carlton School District #15-6 was called to order by Chair, Vickie Cornish, at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, in the District Office Conference Room. Present at the meeting were Trustees Mel Finlay, Dorothy Rhodes, Pat Appleby, and Mike Greger via telephone; Superintendent John McGee; Elementary Principal Chrissy Hulla; Principals Dan Grabowska and Audrey Backus. The District Clerk, Julie Mason, was not present. Donna Hemphill recorded the minutes of the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vickie Cornish.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:
The Board reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 8th and the Special Meetings held on March 1st, March 14th, and March 21st, and the warrants for the month of April.

- Mr. Finlay moved to approve the minutes of March 1st. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Finlay moved to approve the minutes of March 8th. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Finlay moved to approve the minutes of March 14th. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- Mr. Finlay moved to approve the minutes of March 21st. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

It was explained that the Northwestern Energy bill had just been received that day and the District Clerk had requested approval by the Board to pay the bill in full upon her return.

- Mrs. Rhodes moved to approve the payment of the Northwestern Energy bill in full upon the District Clerk’s return. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- Mrs. Rhodes moved to approve the April warrants. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

MEETINGS:
1. May 9th - 6:00 p.m. Reorganizational Meeting
2. May 10th - 7:00 p.m. - Tuesday - Regular Board Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CORRESPONDENCE:
None

PERSONNEL:
A. Extracurricular Staff
1. Head High School Track Coach Resignation
Mr. McGee stated that Mariah Patterson had turned in her letter of resignation effective March 13, 2011.

- Mrs. Rhodes moved to accept Mariah Patterson’s resignation effective March 13, 2011. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

2. Hire Head High School Track Coach
Mr. McGee stated that Mr. Sam Baerlocher had offered to step in as the head high school track coach for the season. He stated that because of the timing of the resignation, the day before the track season started, and the fact that Mr. Baerlocher had a lot of experience as a track coach, it would be a good choice for the District.
Mrs. Rhodes moved to hire Sam Baerlocher as the head high school track coach for the remainder of the track season. Mrs. Appleby seconded. There was discussion on the fact that when this track season was over the District would open up the head high school track position and actively look for a coach for the following season. The motion carried 5-0.

B. Classified Staff
   1. Hire Custodian

Mr. Finlay moved to hire Mr. Christopher Scholl as a custodian at a salary of $9.90 per hour. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS:
A. Student Council President Report – Kendall Cotton reported on the following:
   1. Working on the courtyard project.
   2. Planning on doing something for Teacher Appreciation Week.

B. Elementary Principal Mrs. Chrissy Hulla reported on the following:
   1. Explained the artwork hanging in the conference room
   2. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held this week.
   3. First graders will be having music concert next week.
   4. Finished CRT testing. Reported that the Elementary test answer booklets were mailed late (not with the middle school and high school) and hoped this would not cause a delay in the results reporting.
   5. Volunteers from RSVP came to ID kindergarteners and first graders as part of a safety program. They fingerprint, videotape, and put information on a CD to give to the parents. The parents then have this information in case something was to happen to the child, the parents could give the information to the authorities.

C. High School Principal/Activity Director – Dan Grabowska reported on the following:
   AD Activities
   1. It is a busy week with softball games, track meet at the U of M, and the District Music Festival.
   2. There are approximately 160 participants in the different activities this week. This shows how important the extracurricular activities, tied in with academics, are at our school.

   High School
   1. Reviewed the process of getting ready for the NW Accreditation visitation. There was a visiting team from Hamilton (4 teachers and 1 principal) that came to the school and went to classes, talked to teachers and miscellaneous staff and students and basically reviewed the school. Mr. Grabowska passed out the report from the Hamilton team and it was a positive report. The report included commendations and recommendations from the visiting team.

C. 6-7-8 Principal - Mrs. Audrey Backus reported on the following:
   1. Working on the handbook.
   2. Indian Education units are this week.
   3. Special education transition meetings will be held April 28th.
   4. Ravalli Task Force will be holding DUI simulations with the eighth graders.

E. Superintendent Report - Mr. McGee reported on the following:
   1. Safe Routes to School Grant for Long Avenue improvements was denied. There was 1 million dollars available to schools and 4 million dollars' worth of project requests. They felt that our request of a quarter of a million dollars on one project was too much for one project, they could spread that out among several schools. The District plans on meeting with the Department of Transportation to see what can be done to improve the issues on Long Avenue.
   2. Spoke about high speed internet. There has been some cabling being installed to increase the speed of our internet. This project should be complete by the time school starts in the fall.
   3. The CTEP trail project is going out for bid and the project should start shortly after school ends in June.
4. Due process complaints from students and employees. Mr. McGee stated that he does not discuss these issues with the Board in advance to keep them as pure jurists. In the event that these issues come to the Board, Mr. McGee wants to make sure that the Board members have had no prior influence one way or another so they could make a fair, unbiased decision if needed.

5. Made the Board aware they may have to institute a Reduction In Force due to a possible lack of funding for the 2011-2012 school year. This could affect both the Classified and Certified staff. It was stated that the legislature still has not finalized funding for education at this time.

6. The copier contract will end in December with IKON. Mr. McGee stated he is looking at different ways to save money with the copiers and printers in the District. An IKON representative had come to the District to do an assessment on the usage of our machines and will give a recommendation on what changes can be made to save on copier costs.

7. It was stated that the time clock issues with past employees would be addressed at the May Board meeting.

8. The District received a $5000 reimbursement check from Northwestern Energy.

9. Booster Club will be holding a meeting regarding fundraising and concession stand issues along with Student Council.

10. Mr. McGee has been working with Mr. Baerlocher and Mr. Grabowska on the re-structuring of student groups fundraising. This is in response to the OCR complaint and has to be implemented by August 2011.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget Amendment 2010-2011

At the March Board meeting trustee’s made a proclamation outlining their determination of the unforeseen need of the district. In this proclamation a defined cost was attached. At this meeting the board will make a budget amendment resolution.

_The Florence-Carlton School Board proclaimed that unforeseen needs of the district that could not be postponed without affecting the safety of students and employees exist and therefore a Budget Amendment to the general fund budget in the amount of $30,300.00 was necessary._

_Mr. Finlay moved to adopt the Budget Amendment Resolution as presented. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0._

B. Testing Eighth and Twelfth Grade Students Discussion

_Tabled_ – There was no representative from the Montana Citizens for Excellence in Education present at the meeting. They had requested that this item be on the Agenda.

C. Levy Election Flyer

There was discussion on if the Board wanted an informational flyer to go out to the public regarding the General Fund Levy. Also, if there was a flyer to go out, what information should be included? It was stated that the Board would like an informational flyer sent out and that the members of the Budget and Finance Committee would come up with the language stating what would happen with the funds if the levy passes. It was also suggested that the flyer inform the public that the district has made $143,000 in cuts to help balance the budget. The Board requested that when the flyer was finished it be emailed to each of the Board members so they each could approve it.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2011-2012 School Calendar

Mr. McGee stated that in the Board packet there was three calendar choices that the staff voted on and calendar C was the one that the teachers had voted on for the next school year. Please be aware that the student days are reduced from 180 to 177 days of instruction, but the District will still meet OPI standards for the number of minutes of instruction. These three days will be used for staff training. There was discussion on needing to lengthen the school day by 4-5 minutes for the fourth and fifth graders and also discussion on the teachers not having to miss as many school days to go to training and having a substitute in the classroom with this calendar.

_Mrs. Rhodes moved to adopt the school calendar option C as presented with a school beginning_
date of August 29, 2011 and a school ending date of June 6, 2012 for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Appleby seconded. There was some discussion on Parent Teacher conference times, training options, starting before Labor Day, early out days, and classified staff schedules. The motion carried 5-0.

B. After School Tennis Program

Mr. McGee explained that Shannon Schwab, the School Tennis Coordinator for the Montana Tennis Association, was there to request the use of the District facility to introduce the Quickstart tennis program for kids ten and under. Ms. Schwab reviewed with the Board the program guidelines and what they would like to do and when they would like to do it.

Mrs. Appleby moved to refer this issue to the Superintendent. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Florence School Flyer

Mr. McGee explained that Brenda Bolton along with other teachers had put together an informational flyer, in an effort to get better information to the public about the quality of the Florence-Carlton School District. These flyers will be distributed in the community in places such as Farmers Bank, Café Firenze, and given to realtors.

D. Interagency Transportation Agreement

Each year the school district enters into an interagency transportation agreement to allow the Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative to transport cooperative preschool students from Florence to Stevensville.

Mr. Finlay moved to participate in the 2011-2012 Interagency Transportation Agreement with the Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

At 8:16 p.m., the Board Meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST: ____________________________    CHAIR: ____________________________
Julie Mason
District Clerk

Vickie Cornish
Chair