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, March 08, 2011, in the District Conference Room. Present at the meeting were Trustees Mike Greger, Pat Appleby, Dorothy Rhodes, and Mel Finlay; Superintendent Mr. John McGee; Principals Mr. Dan Grabowska; Mrs. Audrey Backus; Mrs. Christine Hulla; and District Clerk Ms. Julie Mason. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Cornish.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:
The Board reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 8th and the Special Meeting held on February 22nd, and the Board reviewed the warrants for the month of March.

Mr. Finlay moved to accept the minutes of February 8th as written. Mr. Greger seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Finlay moved to accept the minutes of February 22nd as written. Mr. Greger seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Finlay moved to accept the warrants for March as written. Mr. Greger seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

MEETINGS:
1. April 12th - 7:00 pm - Regular Board Meeting / District Conference Room

CORRESPONDENCE:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
A. 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget Discussion
   1. Mill Levy Discussion
      Mr. McGee reviewed the preliminary budget numbers and stated that we will have an approximate shortfall of $293,000 for the 2011-2012 school year. He stated that this was a Legislative year and because of that it will be hard to say what the educational funds will look like and final funding will not be known until the end of April. He informed the Board that at this point the district and committee had been working with the preliminary budget numbers as if there was a zero increase or decrease from the previous year. He reviewed with the Board concerns with the ARRA funds being taken out of the formula and also concerns with our enrollment decreasing and how this negatively affects our budget. Mr. McGee talked about the cuts that could be made to make up the $293,000 but it would hurt the district and also showed them a proposal with approximately $143,000 worth of cuts. There was more discussion on the various cuts that could be made and discussion on running a General Fund Levy to help with a portion of the short fall and make cuts to match and cover the total shortfall.
      Julie Harris read a letter aloud regarding the budget and how the district should consider removing positions that are not needed, changing scheduling, and other cuts before asking the taxpayers for a levy. She asked the Board to look at saving programs and put students first.
      Rick Paris commented on the guidelines set by 10.55.705, cutting administrators, the loss of kids in the district, and how the district needed new management.
      Keith O’Brien, President of the Florence Fire Board, asked to meet with some of the school board members regarding the school levy, because the Fire Board was considering running a levy at a later date and did not want to cross paths with the school.
      There was some discussion on the T-1 program.
      Jim Shreve commented on the past years budgets, not taking away from the kids, getting rid of the School Resource Officer, and how he thought the district was trying to trick the voters into voting for a levy by scaring them with cuts to kids programs.
      Kevin O’Brien asked about the possibility of charging tuition for the out of district students, commented on
middle school athletics, and stated that the district should look at cuts that do not affect students. There was discussion on losing staff because of the drop in enrollment. It was explained that the loss of students was throughout K-12 not just in one or two grades, therefore it was not possible to just cut teaching positions. There was discussion on the Budget and Finance committee continuing to work on the issues and that the district is not threatening program cuts to scare the public, it is a reality and a lot hinges on the legislature and their decisions by the end of April.

Mrs. Rhodes moved to set a general fund levy for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 3-2. (Mr. Finlay and Mr. Greger opposed)

B. 2011 Election Resolution
The Board was asked to move to adopt a resolution calling for an election to be held on May 3, 2011.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Florence-Carlton School District #15-6, of Ravalli and Missoula Counties, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, which is a date not less than forty (40) days after the passage of this resolution.

The polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the New Gym of the Florence-Carlton School.

The purpose of this election will be to elect two (2) trustees for the Florence-Carlton School Board, each for a three (3) year term. Approval of additional levies, in the amount to be determined, to operate and maintain the Florence-Carlton School for the 2011-2012 school year will also be requested. If it is later determined that any portion of the election is not required, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Election Administrator to cancel that portion of the election in accordance with 13-1-304 and 20-3-313, M.C.A.

Three electors of this district who are qualified to vote at such election are hereby appointed to act as judges. Mrs. Pat Lavely, Mrs. Nancy Dillon, and Mrs. Connie Gevock.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of this school district is hereby directed to notify the above named election judges of their appointment and to notify the county election administrator of the date of holding said election, and request him/her to close registration and to prepare and furnish election materials as required by law. If any judges should not be able to serve, the election administrator will choose a replacement from certified judges.

No further proceedings were conducted relating to the election.

APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2011

Mrs. Rhodes moved to approve the election resolution. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Budget Amendment 2010-2011
Mr. McGee reported that the final cost is in on the kitchen hood and ventilation project and proposed the Board proclaim 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 is necessary.

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. Mrs. Appleby moved to adopt the Budget Amendment Proclamation as presented. Mrs. Rhodes seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Student Activity Coffee Fund Discussion
Karen Branzell and Bob Edgar had requested the opportunity to reorganize the coffee fund by starting up a coffee stand within the school with the sole purpose of fundraising for academic enrichment.

Mrs. Rhodes moved to approve Karen Branzell and Bob Edgar as the activity advisors for the Falcon coffee cart. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:
A. Iowa Test of Basic Skills Discussion
Dave Hurt, representing Montana Citizens for Excellence in Education, stated their group would like to make education better across the U.S., starting here in Florence. He proposed that our eighth graders and our twelfth graders take the Iowa Basic comprehensive standardized test before the end of this school year. He stated that he did not know how much this would cost the district. It was asked if the group had approached any other school district about doing this testing and it was stated they had not.

There was discussion on why this particular test, on what would happen next with the information, on why all of the tests they were currently taking could not be used, and on when they could possibly schedule in another test day. It was also stated that possibly the Pre-SAT during the Junior year would be a better assessment tool. Several senior students spoke about the fact that they already had so much going on at this point of the year and that because this test wouldn’t mean anything, most students would not put much effort into it or care how they did and that could skew the results. It was mentioned that maybe the group should use the ACT and/or SAT scores as they are more widely taken and taken seriously by the students. Mrs. Cornish said she agreed with the idea in theory, but it is an extra cost and there is no time to schedule at this point. She stated that we all want to do better, but maybe we could use testing information from tests already in place.

Mr. Greger moved to not have the students take the Iowa Basic test this year. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Recess at 9:15 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 9:21 p.m.

B. MUST Assessment Fee
Mr. McGee reviewed the details of the MUST assessment fee and stated that MUST had notified the district that an adjustment on Pro Rata Premium contribution was made. He informed the board that the fee had been adjusted from $27,360 to $15,632.62 and that we would be using the funds reimbursed to the district from flexible benefit contributions not used in previous years to cover this fee.

Mrs. Rhodes moved to pay MUST the $15,632.62 in contribution assessment fee. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Transportation Contract
Mr. McGee reviewed with the Board that at the end of this school year the transportation contract with Majestic Bus Service would end, that the committee had been working with Majestic on the proposed contract, and there had been no questions on the contract since the Board had accepted it on first reading at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Finlay moved to accept the proposed contract for transportation as presented on second reading. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS:
A. Student Council President – Kendall Cotton reported:
1. The Honors Luncheon was held for students having a 3.75 GPA or above. There were sixty-three students.
2. Beginning to work on the courtyard project.

B. Elementary - Chrissy Hulla reported:
1. Had Criteria Reference testing.
2. There was a third grade music program and the second graders will have one at the end of the month.

3. Kindergarten roundup and screening will be held on March 23rd.

4. Received a $333 check from EEE for technology and special education.

5. Held a “Me and My Main Man” dance last week.

C. High School Principal/Activities Director – Dan Grabowska reported the following:
   1. Informed all that the Gold Diggers information was based on Math testing only.
   2. Key Club went to State Convention and received four awards on the first day.
   3. The Math Counts competition being held in Missoula and also Academic World Quest competition.
   4. State BPA will be held next week.
   5. Finished CRT’s last week and should have preliminary results in May or June.
   6. Informed the board about the National Student Clearing House. It tracks students after they graduate for the next eight years.
   7. Northwest Accreditation had their five year visit.
   8. Mr. Grabowska stated the Principal conference in San Francisco was a great experience.
   9. Boys basketball team is going to the State tournament in Great Falls.
   10. The parents meeting for spring sports was held the night before. The first track meet will be March 26th and the first softball game will be March 31st.

D. Middle School Principal – Audrey Backus reported on the following:
   1. Eighth grader, Conor Kowolski, will be going on to the County Spelling Bee.
   2. Ms. Bristow and Mr. Givedon will be covering Juvenile Law with the students. Some subjects being covered are weapons, disorderly conduct, profanity, assault, and substance abuse.
   3. CTR’s will be held next week.
   4. Sixth graders will try to go on the Lolo Pass fieldtrip again.
   5. April 11th-15th will be Indian Education week.

E. Superintendent - John McGee reported on the following:
   This item on the agenda was tabled.

PERSONNEL:
A. Classified Staff
   1. Custodian Resignation

Mr. McGee let the Board know that Stephanie Westrom, a custodian, had submitted a letter of resignation, effective on March 11, 2011.

Mr. Finlay moved to accept Stephanie Westrom’s resignation effective March 11, 2011. Mrs. Appleby seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Administration
   1. Renew Principals

Mr. McGee stated that to maintain administrative continuity it was recommended that the district rehire each of the administrators for the 2011-2012 school year. There was discussion on the number of administrators compared to students and discussion on the number of administrators compared to staff members. Because there are over 17 licensed staff at the middle school, the district, by OPI standards, can have a full time middle school principal. There was also discussion on the fact that cutting an administrator and the lack of teacher/student support by cutting that position, would have a large negative impact on the school district.

Mrs. Appleby move to table this issue. It died due to lack of a second.

Mrs. Rhodes moved to rehire Dan Grabowska, Chrissy Hulla, and Audrey Backus under their current contract for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Finlay seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

POLICY:
A. Policy #3145—Foreign Exchange Students—Second Reading.

Mrs. Rhodes moved that the following language be added to Policy #3145, at the end of the second paragraph: "unless they have applied for a SEVIS application through the school that is accepted by the Department of Immigration and Naturalization." as second reading. Mr. Greger seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

At 10:10 p.m., the Board Meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST: ________________________________
Julie Mason
District Clerk

CHAIR: ________________________________
Vickie Cornish
Chair