

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
140 WEST PINE STREET
MISSOULA MONTANA
JANUARY 5, 2011, 2:35 – 4:00 PM**

Members present: Ed Childers, President; Stacy Rye, Vice President; Dick Haines; Lyn Hellegaard; Bob Jaffe; Marilyn Marler; Renee Mitchell; Dave Strohmaier; Pam Walzer; Jason Wiener; and Jon Wilkins

Members absent:

Others present: Bruce Bender, Linda Jordan, Dr. Alex Apostle, Lesli Brassfield,

I. Administrative Business

Minutes dated [December 8, 2010](#) and [December 20, 2010](#) will be approved at a later date

II. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda—None

III. Regular Agenda

- A. Update and possible action on bills pending before the 2011 Montana State legislative session. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 12/06/10) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

Bruce Bender, Chief Administrative Officer, gave an overview of the new format for the Legislative update. He also stated Linda Jordan will do the initial review of the all the Legislative bills and upload them to the new system for the council and staff to take a look at. If any council member has any questions for the lobbyist, John McDonald, or would like the city to track a certain bill not uploaded to the system, they should email Linda Jordan in the Mayor's office.

Linda Jordan explained the new system tool which is an export from the State of Montana LAWS website. This is a public access site so anyone can see what bills the city of Missoula is following during the 2011 Legislative session. She stated she has the capability to "tag" or assign a certain bill to different departments at the same time so one bill may be reviewed by multiple departments.

The link is <http://www.missoulainsession.com/> and can be found on the front page of the city's website.

Mr. Haines asked if the bills are going to be listed by sponsor. Ms. Jordan stated they will not be listed by sponsor if they are in the department view. Also, to use the search feature, the search term is case sensitive.

Mr. Jaffe asked if there is a way to provide feedback from the lobbyist. Mr. Bender stated the lobbyist is required to give a summary to the mayor each week in which the Mayor will then give a report to the council at the council meeting on Mondays for the prior week.

Mr. Strohmaier asked if the lobbyist reports will be available for public viewing. Mr. Bender stated the reports will be available on the weekly agendas.

- B. Update on Public Schools Major Initiatives: 21st Century Schools, Graduation Matters Missoula, and Student Achievement with Alex Apostle. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 11/01/10) **REMOVE FROM AGENDA**

Dr. Alex Apostle, Superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools, discussed the Missoula County Public Schools major initiatives for 2010-2011. ([Handout](#))

21st Century Schools Initiative: They played a short [video](#) of the 21st Century Schools. He stated the school district needed to raise \$150,000 to hire a consultant, PCG Consultants, to

take a look at the current system and develop a process of improvement. The District raised \$120,000 from the community. This year has been spent collecting data from parents, students, teachers and administrators. Missoula is one of the few districts in the United States who have entertained taking a look at 21st Century on a K-20 perspective. Based on the data, MCPS will be able to develop a plan based on the community needs as a model for other communities. There is a website, www.mcpscentury21.org, to find out more information on the progress of the 21st century initiative.

Graduation Matters:

Dr. Apostle stated a big piece of the 21st Century schools is the Graduation Matters Missoula initiative which is designed to keep kids in school and keep them excited in learning. The number one reason students drop out of school is because they are bored. The second reason is they feel nobody really cares if they are there or not. The drop out rate in Missoula has been reduced by 50% since 2008-2009. Denise Juneau, State Superintendent of Schools, is introducing something similar by making Graduation Matters a state wide initiative. She is also supporting Missoula by taking 21st Century schools to the state level and making Montana a 21st Century school state.

Dr. Apostle also stated the MCPS five measurable goals:

- Achievement and graduation for all students, regardless of their circumstances and abilities.
- Refine and implement a quality supervision and evaluation program for all staff
- Define and implement a quality professional development program that meets the needs of all staff
- Restructure the organization to be more efficient, effective and accountable to support the goals of the District.
- Cultivate and enhance staff, student, parent, business and community involvement.

Mr. Strohmaier asked what initiatives they have embarked on to drop the dropout rate. Dr. Apostle stated they have committees K-12 that meet on a regular basis to review weekly reports, attendance and grades. Some of the principals have gone to houses and have been able to bring the students back to school. He also stated they try to involve the parents as much as possible.

Mr. Haines stated he would like to see more money put into education to help the low end students graduate. Dr. Apostle stated they have a philosophy that every student matters and every student counts. There will never be enough money in education to do what they want to do.

Mr. Wilkins stated he is impressed with the dropout rate of 50%. He also stated he has been working with a young man who happened to graduate but is still another lost soul. Are there any plans on keeping track of these kids once they graduate to get them to correct resources? Dr. Apostle stated there isn't anything yet but adult education or job corp. He also stated the 21st Century School will help someone do hands on program rather than just going on to higher education. In region 3 (Lowell, Hawthorne, Franklin, Porter, and Big Sky), they are looking at a K20 Health-Sciences Academy where they are exposing students to the medical field.

Mr. Jaffe asked about how they calculate the reduction in dropout rates. Dr. Apostle stated they compare the number of students who dropped out in 2008-09 to how many in 2009-10. The district even counts the students who move out of the area and if MCPS has not received a request for transcript then they count the student as a dropout. The district monitors every student who comes into the district and who have left the district. In this current school year the district has had 29 students drop out. There are 176 school days in a year. The state reimburses the district \$6,500.00 per high school student, \$4,000.00 per elementary student in which they operate on a 60 million dollar budget.

Mr. Jaffe asked how many students there are currently in school. Dr. Apostle stated there are 4,790 elementary students and 3,630 students in high school.

Ms. Mitchell asked if there are themes or patterns in the drop outs. Dr. Apostle stated the kids who start getting behind or failing in classes and see their friends succeeding is when they give up hope. The school then needs to step in and intervene to help show the student how to succeed.

Ms. Mitchell asked if homeschooled students are included. Dr. Apostle replied yes they are included because they have transcripts too.

- C. Review referrals to Committee of the Whole to see if any items can be removed. ([memo](#)) Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 01/03/2011) **HELD IN COMMITTEE**

This item was not discussed.

IV. Held in committee

1. Mayor's Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mayor Engen)
2. Updates from Council representatives on the Health Board, Community Forum, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee, other boards and commissions as necessary. – (Ongoing in Committee)
3. Joint meeting of the Mayor, City Council and County Commission; a facilitated quarterly OPG review as directed in the [Interlocal Agreement](#) (Agenda)—Ongoing (Mayor Engen)
4. Develop short and mid-term goals ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Bob Jaffe) (Referred to committee: 4/23/07)
5. Joint meeting between the Missoula City Council and the Missoula County Public Schools' Board of Trustees ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 09/17/07)
6. Examination of Office Planning and Grants ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
7. Review CIP funding mechanism, vehicle replacement policy, department vehicle use practices, specifically Police, Fire, and Parking Commission ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ed Childers) (Referred to committee: 11/10/08)
8. Attend the UM/City luncheon hosted by The University of Montana on October 27, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the University Center, rooms #326-327. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Mayor Engen)

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Rogers

Deputy City Clerk