

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 12, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. MT, Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at the DeMores School in Medora. Present were members Lynn Arthaud, Joey Kessel, Stacey Kessel, Mike Klatt, and Julie Reis. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Principal Shae Peplinski, Assistant Principal Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, Jessi Polensky, Clarence Sitter, Marjorie Jensen, and Liz Odermann.

Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the August 15 regular meeting and the August 29 special meeting, the attached check lists, and the addition of two items to the agenda. All in favor.

Propane bids were submitted as follows:

West Dakota Oil \$1.09 per gallon with rate effective September 12, 2017, through September 12, 2018.

Missouri Valley Petroleum \$1.08 per gallon. Simnioniw called Wade Strilcov, Account Manager, for clarification on the time period of his bid. He stated that his bid was at \$1.08 per gallon for the first 90 days. Then he would renegotiate the price for the remainder of the period. It could go up or it could go down for the remaining period.

Creative Energy \$1.15 per gallon for period prior to January 31, 2018, and \$1.35 from February 1, 2018, until August 31, 2018.

Stacey Kessel declared a conflict of interest. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to allow Stacey Kessel to participate in discussion and vote. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

Joey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to award the 2017-18 propane contract to West Dakota Oil at bid price of \$1.09 for full year. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

The board discussed bus routes. Arthaud presented more financial data for each route and recapped previous discussions. She reported on response from NDSBA for questions posed from list developed at August board meeting. Stacey Kessel asked that the cost be figured for each family if family transportation was paid all the way to the school as a cost comparison with contracted busing. This information will be compiled and presented at the next board meeting. Jessi Polensky submitted a written list of questions and concerns. Copies were provided to the board members. Discussion ensued and questions were answered for what was currently known.

Arthaud reported that NDSBA suggested we secure legal counsel to answer the questions more thoroughly that the board has regarding transportation of students. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to secure legal counsel to answer transportation questions. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Clarence Sitter, TRMF, presented information on a tax exemption request they are considering for the south bunkhouse replacement, newly named "Elkhorn Quarters." If it goes to a city hearing, a school board member could be appointed to provide input, but is not a voting member. Appointment of school board member will be placed on October school board meeting agenda.

Principal O'Brien reported that Jennifer Frank turned down the position of para-professional at Prairie School. The interview committee received another application from Karlene Chruszch and made the recommendation to the board to hire Mrs. Chruszch. Stacey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to approve the interview committee's recommendation to hire Karlene Chruszch as a temporary, part-time teacher's aide at Prairie. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that DeMores School was in compliance with all teachers having highly qualified status. Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the annual compliance report for DeMores School. Roll call vote with all in favor. Peplinski presented the board with the state accreditation annual compliance reports.

One teacher at Prairie School is on a plan to obtain highly qualified status. The State has allowed for an

extension to obtain accreditation with the plan in place. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to approve an extension for the annual certification of compliance for Prairie School. Roll call vote with all in favor. Peplinski reported on the District-Wide annual compliance. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the District-Wide annual compliance report. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that West River Special Services requested that an assessment tool be purchased between schools. After discussion, Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to table a decision until further clarification on the exact cost to the Billings County School District was determined and which schools would be sharing the cost of the assessment tool. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Both principals reported on upcoming events at their respective schools. It was also noted that school websites will be required to be ADA compliant. EduTech is working with all schools to move toward that goal. The principals and school board members reported that they are getting overwhelmingly positive feedback on the availability of the suburbans used for sports and school activities. Joey Kessel gave recognition to the Sheriff's department and the county commissioners for the donation.

A resignation letter from David Dickey, Maintenance staff, was read. Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to accept the resignation. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Arthaud expressed good luck to Mr. Dickey for his future endeavors.

Simnioniw provided email correspondence to the board from Briana Rummel, Attorney, regarding options the board had in their performance bond insurance claim. Joey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to approve option 1 to execute the release of the security for \$12,000. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

Simnioniw reported that the milk cooler at DeMores went out. It is very old and not worth repairing. A new cooler was purchased and the old needs to be disposed of. Simnioniw presented three items for the excess property list--the old milk cooler, and two old wet vacs. Neither has any value, but there may be more than one interested party to dispose of the milk cooler. Joey Kessel moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to dispose of these items, but to first offer them to staff. Sealed offers were to be solicited with highest offer allowed to buy the items. If no offers, the items can be disposed of. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor. Simnioniw reported on other maintenance projects completed and maintenance and grounds issues.

The board reviewed the agenda for the annual school board law seminar and convention. They were asked to let Simnioniw know by October 1 whether they would be attending.

Discussion was held on the level of alcohol and drug testing to be done for activities suburban drivers. This is non-DOT testing so the board has discretion on level of testing to be done. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to require drug and alcohol testing on one percent each quarter of non-DOT drivers who will be transporting students in the suburbans. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw reported that the BCSD received notice that they are eligible to receive \$185,196 in ND Trust Land Grant funds which can be used for renovation and improvement projects.

Stacey Kessel and Principal Peplinski gave the RESP report.

Correspondence was read by the board from Mrs. Kubas and her fourth grade class and Shadera Burian.

Arthaud reported that she had authorized Simnioniw to obtain legal counsel in response to a subpoena. The issue was time sensitive, so the decision was made to go ahead with obtaining legal advice prior to full board approval.

Klatt moved to adjourn, Reis seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Lynn Arthaud, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager