

**BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**December 11, 2017**  
**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**(Subject to review and revision by the board)**

The regular monthly meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. MT, Monday, December 11, 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, Maintenance Shawn Thomas, James Wosepka, Marjorie Jensen, Jan Kuchera, Bill Kessel, and Kevin Kessel.

Stacey Kessel moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the November 14 regular meeting and the December 4 special meeting, the attached check list, and the addition of three items to the agenda. All in favor.

James Wosepka reported to the board that he had completed the audit for the school district for fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017. All was satisfactory. Klatt moved, Reis seconded, to approve the audit report for the period ending June 30, 2017. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Fuel oil bids were opened by Arthaud. Creative Energy submitted a bid of \$2.35 per gallon of #2 fuel oil and Missouri Valley Petroleum submitted a bid of \$2.8597 for #2 dyed fuel oil. Stacey Kessel declared a conflict of interest. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to recognize the conflict and to allow Stacey Kessel to participate in discussion and voting. Roll call vote with all in favor. Klatt moved, Reis seconded, to award the fuel oil bid to Creative Energy at the bid price of \$2.35 per gallon. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Shawn Thomas provided a written and verbal report on maintenance issues which included a list of items that need to be addressed.

Arthaud requested that job descriptions of all staff be reviewed to update to address ADA and Veteran's preference protocol. She also recommended moving supervision of custodial staff to Shawn Thomas and moving supervision of Thomas directly under the board. Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve moving supervision of custodial staff for both schools to Thomas. Roll call vote with all in favor. Arthaud moved to transfer supervision of Shawn Thomas to the school board. The motion failed for lack of a second. Thomas asked the board if they would provide compensation for the added responsibility of supervision by allowing him to drive the school pickup to and from home. Reis moved, Arthaud seconded, to approve. Roll call vote with Reis and Arthaud in favor and Joey Kessel, Stacey Kessel, and Klatt opposed. Motion failed. Arthaud asked for volunteers for a committee to update the job descriptions. Stacey Kessel and Reis volunteered.

Arthaud reported that she had received the completed Principal evaluations from the board members and was in the process of compiling. She will compile the results and have the evaluation filed by December 15. She reported that initial review indicates a good evaluation.

Peplinski and O'Brien reported on upcoming events. Peplinski informed the board that the DeMores Student Council held a fundraising event at the school over Cowboy Christmas and had a good turnout. She also reported that DeMores School was awarded third place for the Medora Christmas decorating contest. Recognition was given to Jessie Berger who worked hard on the decorating. O'Brien stated that the school website needs to be ADA compliant by January 31, 2018, and that it is near completion to convert. She stated that due to ADA compliant regulations, the website will need to be very basic. O'Brien reported that after the Prairie public input meeting held December 4, surveys turned in thus far were 1 neutral with pro and con comments, 4 against and 13 in favor of the project. Peplinski and O'Brien reported that all teacher evaluations that need to be completed by December 15 are completed.

Arthaud and Joey Kessel reported on the discussion and tentative terms agreed to when they met with the South Heart School District transportation committee on November 29. No action will be taken until both school board committees have had a chance to get input from their respective boards. The Billings County School Board members were in consensus that the initial terms were agreeable to them. Action

will be taken once specific terms are outlined. Meetings with Belfield Public School board transportation committee members will be scheduled in January. Bill and Kevin Kessel raised questions and provided comments regarding bus transportation.

Reis moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to approve the second reading to adopt Accessibility Policy ABDA. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw reported that she will attend a WDEA Education Committee meeting in Williston on December 15. Administrators from schools in oil producing counties will meet with legislators to discuss potential oil and gas distribution proposals planned for next legislative session and the impact to school revenues.

The board reviewed information from legal counsel regarding how to proceed with moving toward four-year terms with elections held every other year with the county's general election. Per 2017 school election results, the school board makeup will be two members from the newly formed Director District 1, two members from the newly formed Director District 2, and one at-large member. The board is now comprised of three members from Director District 2, so per NDCC, the board will draw to determine which of the three will become the at-large position. Stacey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the drawing by lot to determine which of the three board members in Director District 2 (Joey Kessel, Mike Klatt, and Julie Reis) will be the at-large position. Roll call vote with all in favor. A drawing was held with Mike Klatt determined to be the at-large member. Klatt's term will end in 2019.

Stacey Kessel and Peplinski gave the RESP report.

The board would like to hold day time meetings in January and February to give Student Council members a chance to observe school board meeting procedures. The meetings will be held as follows, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. at Prairie School in Fairfield and February 13 at 1:30 p.m. at DeMores School in Medora. The board members will do classroom visits prior to the start of the meeting.

At 5:50 p.m., the board recessed to move to the Resource Room for the public input meeting. The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. for the public meeting regarding the Prairie Expansion project. Billings County School District administrative staff and board members provided information regarding the project and answered meeting participants' questions. Meeting attendees were given a survey at the conclusion of the informational meeting requesting feedback for or against the project or comments and suggestions regarding the project.

The meeting was recessed at 6:50 p.m. to conclude the public input portion of the meeting and the board returned to the board room to finish the regular meeting. The board meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Peplinski reported that West River Special Services would like to contract with the BCSD to provide a Special Education teacher from January until the end of the school year at a contract rate of \$21,000. The board asked Peplinski and O'Brien to meet with the Special Education teacher and then schedule a special board meeting to discuss.

Peplinski reported that Belfield Public School will have a 14 passenger activity bus for sale and asked the board if they are interested in purchasing it. A price hasn't been set yet. Discussion was held on how this vehicle could be utilized for sports activities and class field trips. Simnioniw provided the board with a report showing the cost of utilizing large capacity buses for these types of trips. The board will study and once the cost of the activity bus is determined, they will decide if it is cost effective to purchase the vehicle.

The board read a thank you note from Kira Craig.

Reis moved to adjourn, Joey Kessel seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Lynn Arthaud, President

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Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager