

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 9, 2018
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 1:31 p.m. MT, Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at the Prairie Glade School in Fairfield. Present were members Lynn Arthaud, Stacey Kessel, Mike Klatt, and Julie Reis. Also present for all or part of the meeting were Principal Shae Peplinski, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, Maintenance Shawn Thomas, Lynn Peterson, Rebecca Osterman, Brianna Klatt, Tasha Wanner, Jayson Morel, Shawna Burian, Tacy Palahniuk, Dillon Reis, and Colton Crist.

Reis moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the December 11 regular meeting, the attached check list, and the addition of three items to the agenda. All in favor.

Dillon Reis and Tacy Palaniuk gave a Prairie Student Council report. All students in attendance presented issues of concern to the board including policy on temperature and requiring outside recess, bus safety issues including bus fire drills, use of bus monitor, seat belt use, and noise level on bus and in lunch room. The students asked that the buses that pick up elementary students to Prairie be swapped back to how they were last year. The school board and administration discussed solutions with the students.

Thomas gave maintenance report providing a handout detailing issues and maintenance completed the past month. Thomas reported that there is a playground safety training course being held in Mandan in March and asked the board if they would like him to attend. Klatt moved, Reis seconded, to approve sending Thomas to the playground safety training. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The student council and their teacher left the meeting at this point (2:20 p.m.).

Simnioniw reported that costs for the maintenance on the heating and cooling systems at Prairie and DeMores have been higher than expected as several major equipment repairs were in need of repairs in order to keep the systems operational through the winter. Reis moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to declare an emergency situation and exemption under NDCC 48-01.2-04 allowing for contracting with Chillers for major repairs for the heating system to prepare for winter without seeking bids due to unforeseen emergent issues. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Reis and Stacey Kessel reported that they had been working on job descriptions. They discussed preliminary changes. No decisions made at this time.

A letter from legal counsel was reviewed regarding next steps in transitioning to four year terms with elections held with the county every other year. Reis moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to adopt the following resolution as drafted by legal counsel:

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION
Change to Board Member Terms of Office

WHEREAS, members of the Billings County School Board are currently elected to three-year terms;

WHEREAS Section 15.1-09-03 of the North Dakota Century Code permits a school board by resolution to change the terms of office for its members from three to four years;

WHEREAS, the Billings County School Board desires to change the terms of office of its members to four-year terms to permit the Billings County School District to combine its annual elections with Billings County's biennial elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that upon the expiration of each Board Member's current three-year term, the term of office for that position on the Board shall become four years;

LET IT BE ALSO RESOLVED that for positions held by Board Members whose current terms conclude in 2019, there shall be one election for a transitional three-year term from 2019 to 2022, with the 2022 election and all subsequent elections for those positions being for four-year terms;

LET IT BE ALSO RESOLVED that one of the Director District #1 positions shall be chosen by lot to be converted to one two-year term from 2018 to 2020, with the 2020 election and all subsequent elections for that position being for a four-year term; and

LET IF BE ALSO RESOLVED that beginning in 2018, elections regarding the publication of a record of school board proceedings held pursuant to Section 15.1-09-31 of the North Dakota Century Code shall be held in all even-numbered years.

Roll call vote with all in favor. Approved by motion this 9th day of January, 2018.

The board then drew lots to determine the two-year position. Lynn Arthaud was drawn for the two year term. She and Stacey Kessel will be up for re-election in June, 2018. Stacey Kessel's board position will be a four-year term and Lynn Arthaud's position will be a two-year term.

Joey Kessel joined the meeting via teleconference at this point (3:55 p.m.). Arthaud proposed that all high school students north of Belfield and South Heart be transported on the north Belfield High School route with all Belfield and South Heart high school students meeting at designated bus stops along Highway 85. This bus would meet up with the Medora and Fryburg buses in Belfield and one bus would transport students to Belfield High School and another would transport students to South Heart High School. This would allow students on all the Billings County routes to attend either Belfield or South Heart High Schools. The board discussed the pros and cons of this proposal. Joey Kessel disconnected from the call at this point (4:13 p.m.). It was the consensus of the board members present that the Billings County School District transportation committee members meet with Belfield and South Heart transportation committees to discuss this option.

Peplinski reported that there are two new students enrolled at DeMores and one new student at Prairie as of first of year. The DeMores family will be paid family transportation. Simnioniw reported that the bus driver on Dennis O'Brien's Route 3 moved and her home is located near the new Prairie student who will be first to be picked up. She will begin her route at that point, go south, and then backtrack north. It will add a few miles to that route.

Peplinski informed the board that Belfield Public School has a 14 passenger van for sale. It is a 2002 with 58,300 miles. Belfield is asking \$3,000. It's book value is approximately \$5,000. It could be a cost savings for class field trips eliminating the need to use contracted buses and drivers. It could also be used for student activities if not enough seating in suburbans currently owned by the District. Stacey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to purchase the van. Roll call vote with Arthaud, Reis, and Stacey Kessel in favor and Klatt against. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the family transportation report for the first half of the school year. There was a question on one family and Lynn Peterson was asked to do further research to determine if there was a high school student in the family. Reis moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the family transportation payments as presented if it is determined that the one family in question has a high school student. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Arthaud called for volunteers to serve on the teacher negotiations committee. Stacey Kessel and Reis volunteered. Reis asked that she be removed from committee studying classified staff wage and raise considerations. Arthaud will ask Joey Kessel to serve with Klatt on that committee in Reis's place. Stacey Kessel and Reis are asked to let Simnioniw know by February 1 if they can attend negotiations seminar.

Peplinski reported on upcoming events. She then read a resignation letter from Rita Denning who plans

to retire. Reis moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to regretfully accept Rita Denning's resignation. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski requested to submit a grant application to One Oke for up to \$5,000 to use for classroom support curriculum in Resource Room or for Enhancement Program. Klatt moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to approve the request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw reported on the WDEA Education Committee meeting she had attended on December 15 in Williston regarding a new proposal on how the oil and gas gross production tax distribution is handled for schools. Many oil country schools would benefit under the proposal as it would help with building bond repayment. However, BCSD uses the funds for operating, so it may not be beneficial to us. Simnioniw will attend the Legislative Education Committee meeting the end of January when it is discussed to try to better understand the direction this may take when the full legislature meets next year. At the public input meeting held December 11 at DeMores, a patron stated that the building fund money could be transferred out two years after a construction project was completed. Simnioniw reported that she did further research and this statement is correct if a building tax levy results in a balance in the Building Fund. However, if money is transferred into the building fund from the General Fund, as was the case for Billings County School District, then according to Century Code, the funds cannot be transferred out for ten years, using the funds deposited earliest first.

Cerberus Security provided a proposal for a service agreement. Discussion was held on whether it would be more prudent to enter into the service agreement with a fixed rate or pay on an as needed basis with higher costs assessed. Klatt moved, Reis seconded, to approve entering into the agreement for a year and determine when it is up for renewal if it is advisable to continue. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Stacey Kessel reported that there is no RESP report as no meeting was held.

The next school board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at 1:30 p.m. at DeMores School with DeMores Student Council members in attendance. Board members will do classroom visits prior to the meeting.

Arthaud asked if the Business Manager's evaluation was due. Simnioniw stated that the evaluation is distributed in February to board members at the same time as the Principal's. The board would like to see all evaluations completed each year by March 15 for classified and certified staff.

Stacey Kessel requested information on how the student activities funds (fundraising proceeds) were being utilized. Peplinski and Simnioniw reported on ways funds are used.

Klatt moved to adjourn, Reis seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Lynn Arthaud, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager