

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 13, 2018
OFFICIAL MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order at 1:35 p.m. MT, Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at DeMores School in Medora. Present were members Lynn Arthaud, Stacey Kessel (via teleconference), 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, Jessie Berger, Lynn Peterson, Carrie Wannier, Dickie Jo Kubas, Kira Craig, Chelsea Raaen, Kaitlyn Sitter, Abby Talkington, Emma Bock, Tate Janda, Grace Arthaud, Couley Noble, Samara Snyder, Jesse Lapp, Andrew Costas, Erika Honeyman, Richard Volesky, DeeAnn Bock, Dan Schaff, Mat Larson, Liz Odermann, Eric Bock, Markie Toso, and Lori Noble.

Reis moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the January 9 regular meeting, January 18 special meeting, committee meeting Minutes from bus transportation and job description committees, the attached check list, and the addition of three items to the agenda. All in favor.

Abby Talkington, Emma Bock, and Jesse Lapp gave the DeMores Student Council report discussing events and activities they held this year. They also provided suggestions to the board such as installation of water fountains with an appliance for filling water bottles, departmentalization of classes which they stated would prepare them better for high school, and development of curriculum for home economics and shop classes which would prepare them for caring for themselves and provide skills for future jobs. The board stated they would take these recommendations into consideration and thanked the students for their time in preparation and sharing of their ideas.

Simnioniw provided the board with a letter from a patron regarding the school expansion. Dan Schaff with KLJ presented two more options to the board for the Prairie Expansion project. Options 6 and 7 would scale the original plans back to include a combination library and technology lab and one large classroom. Option 6 includes a 1,052 square foot library/tech lab and 730 square foot classroom with an estimated total cost of \$935,706. Option 7 includes a 1,300 square foot library/tech lab and 730 square foot classroom with an estimated total cost of \$1,001,686. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to submit the Option 7 plan to the state for approval. This plan also includes the driveway on the east end of the addition for the bookmobile. The board will work with the architect to bring the cost down to under \$1 million as the proposal included high end finishes. Roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

Thomas gave a facility maintenance report. He will be researching the cost of cleaning air ducts at both schools and replacement of Prairie stage curtains. Thomas also asked the board if they wanted to dispose of the old water system at Prairie that was once used before obtaining services from SW Water Authority. The board will wait to decide until they have a walk-through meeting this spring.

Simnioniw reported that a settlement has still not been offered for the water damage caused by the pipe leak at Prairie. Thomas described the extent of the damage. It was the consensus of the board to immediately replace curriculum materials, but wait until the final settlement before replacing the other damaged items.

Thomas reported that Pete Odermann backed into the rain gutters at the northwest corner of the Resource Center in Medora. Quotes were obtained from Perry Roofing \$1,595, Kahm Construction \$1,852.50, and Project Pros for \$1,028. Odermann will turn these in to his insurance. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to hire Project Pros to complete the work as quoted. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The Billings County Education Association petitioned the Billings County School Board for recognition of representative organization for negotiations. Pursuant to the provisions of 15.1-16-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, as amended, Reis moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to recognize all licensed teachers employed by the Billings County School District as the appropriate negotiating unit. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The Billings County Education Association presented a petition for Recognition of Representative Organization for Negotiations. Reis moved, Klatt seconded, that the School Board, after investigation of the petition filed by the Billings County Education Association requesting that said organization be recognized as

the representative organization for the previously recognized Appropriate Negotiating Unit, has determined that the Billings County Education Association does represent a majority of the persons within that unit and recognizes the Billings County Education Association as the exclusive representative organization for a minimum of one year beginning February 13, 2018. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Arthaud stated that negotiations must begin within 30 days unless otherwise agreed to by the board and teacher's negotiations team.

Peplinski and O'Brien reported on upcoming events. Also reported was that they would be holding preschool open houses and sign ups for next year. The board asked that it be placed on the March agenda to discuss preschool ages, fees, and overall program costs.

The principals also reported that they will departmentalize at both schools utilizing individual teachers' strengths. They are working on these schedules. O'Brien stated she felt it would be highly effective at both schools.

Simnioniw provided the current pledged assets report. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the pledged assets report noting all assets were adequately covered. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw provided the board members with evaluation forms for the District Principal and Business Manager. Arthaud asked that they be completed and returned to her by March 5.

The board reviewed a list of excess property. Some items had no value as they were no longer operational or obsolete. For the items not operational, the board was in favor of destroying sensitive information and disposal. For the items of minimal value, the board instructed Simnioniw to post them out to all staff giving them an opportunity to submit a sealed offer with the highest offer for each item awarded the item. Joey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to approve disposing of the property on the list provided in the manner discussed. Roll call vote with all in favor.

A joint powers agreement with the Billings County Commission for the 2018 election was reviewed by the board. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve entering into the agreement as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor. Reis informed the board that Policy BBA dealing with school board elections will need to be revised. This will be placed on next agenda.

Dickie Jo Kubas presented a proposal for the Billings County School District to go to a four-day school week beginning with the 2018-19 school year. Questions were posed by the board and discussion ensued. The plan would need to be approved by the board and submitted to DPI by March 1, 2018, to obtain approval for the 2018-19 school year. The board was concerned with this timeline as public input would be needed and they felt there wasn't enough time for a comprehensive study. Reis moved, Stacey Kessel seconded, to deny the request but to appoint the administration and board to continue the study and have it completed by December 31, 2018, for consideration for the 2019-20 school year. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Stacey Kessel and Julie Reis are serving on a committee to revise job descriptions. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the maintenance supervisor job description as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor. Joey Kessel moved, Klatt seconded, to approve the custodian job description as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to approve the District Head Cook and Cook job descriptions as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Stacey Kessel disconnected from call at this point (4:30 p.m.).

Arthaud discussed the plan for high school transportation that the transportation committee presented to South Heart and Belfield administration and board representatives. Joey Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to approve the plan to have the SH patrons currently on Route 5 north of South Heart go to the nearest bus stop along Highway 85 to be transported to SH via Belfield. The Route 5 route would be eliminated and family transportation paid to the nearest bus stop for those families with high schoolers currently on that route. Routes 1 and 2 would be extended to facilitate transporting Billings County high school students choosing to attend either Belfield or South Heart schools. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Transportation policies will be reviewed at the March meeting. It was the consensus of the board to include in policy the transportation of preschool students if they have older siblings or live along the route or meet at the nearest bus stop and to transport open-enrolled students into the district if they are attending a Billings County School and live along the route or meet at the nearest bus stop and bus capacity is adequate. The District has been paying family transportation for the full 175 student contact days. Reis moved, Joey

Kessel seconded, to only pay for the number of days in attendance determined from school attendance records. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski gave an RESP report. At their last meeting, they received emergency preparedness training. Peplinski and Thomas discussed ideas for improving safety in the schools.

Requests for donations for their after prom parties were received from South Heart CPASS committee, Belfield After Prom Committee, and Killdeer Post Prom Party Committee. Klatt moved, Joey Kessel seconded, to donate \$100 to each group. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Reis gave a report on the negotiations seminar she and Simnioniw attended. Reis also provided information received from Bowman School District on how they handle public comment at meetings. Reis discussed the terms of Policy KBA regarding communications with the media.

A committee for determining classified staff wage increases was formed. Reis and Stacey Kessel volunteered to serve. They will study current wages and provide a proposal to the full board.

A special negotiations strategy meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, at DeMores School in Medora. The next regular meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 13 at DeMores School in Medora.

Joey Kessel moved to adjourn, Klatt seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Lynn Arthaud, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager