

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 11, 2019
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
(Subject to review and revision by the board)

The regular meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order at 5:01 p.m. MT, Monday, February 11, 2019, at DeMores School in Medora. Present were board members Anita Adams, Eric Bock, Joey Kessel, 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, Shawn Thomas, Jessie Berger, Liz Odermann, and Brett Gurholt and Alex Bossert with KLJ.

Reis moved, Adams seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the January 15 regular meeting, the attached check list, and the addition of four agenda items. All in favor.

Brett Gurholt and Alex Bossert, KLJ, presented information on the proposed DeMores Landscape Correction Project. Preliminary site design was presented, and cost estimates discussed. Board members also reviewed the project plan to be submitted to NDDPI for project approval. Reis moved, Adams seconded, to approve the proposed plan prepared by KLJ for the DeMores Landscape Correction Project and approval to submit to DPI. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien and Thomas reported on the progress of the Prairie Expansion project. Thomas provided a written and oral maintenance report.

Peplinski reported that no decision has yet been made by DPI regarding the four-day school week. They plan to review all submissions at once after the March 1 deadline.

Peplinski and O'Brien informed the board of upcoming events and planned professional development. Mrs. Marjorie Jensen submitted a letter of resignation. Adams moved, Bock seconded, to accept Mrs. Jensen's resignation. Roll call vote with all in favor. Her years of dedicated and valued service were acknowledged.

Peplinski reported that there would be two teaching positions needed for the upcoming year. The first and second grade position being vacated by Mrs. Jensen and a Pre-K teaching position at Prairie. Also, Shawn Thomas, Maintenance Supervisor, informed the board that his family would be relocating and he would be resigning in the near future. He suggested that it would be beneficial to the District if a replacement could be hired soon so he could provide training before he resigns. His anticipated departure date would be approximately on or before April 1. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to advertise for the two teaching positions and the maintenance position. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien discussed graduation location with the board. It was suggested that graduation be held at Prairie again this year due to them having more graduates. After discussion, it was the consensus that the rotation be continued with DeMores having graduation this spring.

Preschool days and tuition rates were discussed. Peplinski proposed a four day school week for preschool. Bock moved, Adams seconded, to hold four-day class for Pre-K and to charge \$350 for full days and \$175 for half days. Roll call vote with all in favor. It was the consensus that no pro-rating of number of days would be allowed.

The board discussed the 2019 school board election. Simnioniw reported that this would be the final year that the school board election would be held in an uneven year and would be held with the county election in even numbered years after this final transitional election. Adams moved, Reis seconded, to set the school board election date for June 4, 2019, with polling places established as **Prairie Precinct** –

Voting place – Prairie small school (library building) at 12793 20th St SW, Fairfield, ND. Precinct includes Townships 141 and 142 Ranges 98, 99 and 100; Townships 143 and 144 Ranges 98 through 102; all territory lying east of the Little Missouri River in Townships 143 and 144 Range 102. **Medora Precinct** – Voting Place – DeMores School in Medora at 350 Broadway, Medora, ND. Precinct includes Townships 137, 138, 139 and 140 Ranges 100, 101, and 102; All of Township 141 and 142 Ranges 101 and 102; all the territory lying west of the Little Missouri River in Townships 143 and 144 Range 102; and the City of Medora; with polling hours from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The Billings County Education Association (BCEA) submitted a petition for recognition of representative organization for negotiations. It was noted that over 50% of the licensed classroom teachers in Billings County School District (BCSD) had signed the petition. Bock moved, Adams seconded, that pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-16-10, the Board of the Billings County School District recognizes as the appropriate negotiating unit all employees licensed to teach by the ESPB or approved to teach by the ESPB and employed primarily as classroom teachers. Negotiations are contingent upon approval of the four-day schedule. Roll call vote with all in favor. The board will act at the March 12 meeting to recognize the BCEA as the representative negotiating organization for all licensed teachers in BCSD.

Peplinski and Simnioniw provided a report on various legislative bills that would affect the District.

The board was provided evaluation sheets for Principal Peplinski and Business Manager Simnioniw. Joey Kessel asked the board members to send their completed evaluations to him on or before March 12. He will compile the results, meet with each staff person, and report on the results to the board. It was noted that Peplinski's evaluation would need to be on file by April 15.

Policy DBAA Recruitment and Background Checks for Personnel was reviewed. Reis and Bock reported that they had done extensive research on whether the Business Manager position could be classified as exempt. They reported that it would be advisable to change this position to non-exempt, hourly. Adams moved, Reis seconded, to approve the first reading to amend policy DBAA. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and Adams gave the RESP report. Concern was expressed for the number of training sessions that had been cancelled.

Correspondence from CPASS (South Heart), Killdeer, and Belfield After Prom Party organizations were presented to the board. The board determined that it was against ND Century Code to use tax payer dollars for donations of this type. However, student activity funds raised from fundraisers were allowable to use. O'Brien reported that the Prairie Student Council voted to donate \$25 to each group, including Beach, if they also requested funds. Peplinski reported that the DeMores Student Council voted to not donate funds.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, at 5:00 p.m. at DeMores School in Medora. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager