

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 13, 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 5:03 p.m. MT, Tuesday, August 13, 2019, at the Prairie School in Fairfield. Present were members Eric Bock, Kwirt Johnson, 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, and John (Pete) Hegge.

Reis moved, Bock seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the July 16 annual meeting (with a correction to policy number), the payment list, financial reports, and the addition of five items to the agenda. All in favor.

O'Brien updated the board on the progress of the expansion project and the board toured the new facility.

Peplinski reported on the status of the DeMores Landscaping Project.

Principals Peplinski and O'Brien requested that the board consider a title change to Superintendent since they acquired their superintendent credentials. The board discussed it and determined they would like to study this further before a decision is made.

Reis, Johnson, O'Brien, and Simnioniw reported on their meeting with the County Commissioners. The county approved the request for Land Utilization funds in the amount of \$350,000 for general fund operating plus \$10,000 for new computers for each library and other library needs. Rita Ennen from the Dickinson Public Library also attended the meeting with the commissioners and expressed reservations about hiring staff at the new Prairie library for the Friday's when school is not in session and one or two evenings per week for public use. The library receives funding through a county tax levy for the community services they provide, whereas the school district provides funding to the library for their services to the school through a contract.

Peplinski, O'Brien, and Simnioniw conducted an interview with John (Pete) Hegge for the maintenance position. It was their recommendation to hire him. John attended the meeting and the board members took the opportunity to ask questions about his experience. Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to accept the recommendation of the interview committee and hire John Hegge for the maintenance supervisor position with starting wage at \$24 per hour with a 90 day probationary period and also to allow the use of the school pickup to and from work. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien presented a request to waive preschool tuition for students whose parents are employed by the school district. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to deny the request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that the Heart River sports co-op was adding cross country. Peplinski reported that the school district is now required to appoint someone as behavioral coordinator. Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to appoint Assistant Principal Danielle O'Brien as behavioral coordinator. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The board was provided a schedule for each school's Discovery Days for 2019-20 school year and principals noted that it was subject to change dependent upon availability of presenters.

Peplinski informed the board that First State Bank of Golvea donated t-shirts for all students and staff to use for field trips.

The board was provided with the Whistleblower Protection Policy for review.

Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to call for propane bids for DeMores and Prairie Schools for period of September 14, 2019, through August 31, 2019. Roll call with all in favor. Bock and Johnson asked that Farmers Union Oil of Beach and Southwest Grain be added to list of vendors who will receive the bid notice. Simnioniw stated that the ad would also be placed in the BC Pioneer.

Discussion on continuance of fire alarm inspection contract was tabled until it is determined how the building will be utilized. O'Brien reported that the BC Sheriff's Department and the BC EMS are interested in utilizing the building. No definite plans have been made at this point. Bock stated he would like to enter into a lease agreement if the county entities decide to occupy the building.

Pete Odermann requested that R&R Auto Farm & Electric be added to the vendor list for DOT bus inspections. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to deny the request. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The Village EAP contract was reviewed by the board. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to continue the EAP contract with The Village at \$1,500 annual fee. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw noted that she had misinformed the board of the required meeting date for the public input meeting regarding adoption of the 2019-20 school budget. Bock moved, Johnson seconded, to rescind the motion made at the July meeting to hold the public input meeting on August 13. Roll call vote with all in favor. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to establish September 10 at 5:00 p.m. at DeMores School for the public input meeting to adopt the 2019-20 budget. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw informed the board that an authorized representative for the Horace Mann payflex plan was required to be named for the district and maximum spending limits needed to be established. Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to appoint Tammy Simnioniw as authorized representative for the Horace Mann payflex spending account and to establish spending limits at a maximum of federally approved limits. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that the RESP kickoff meeting will be held August 19.

Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager