

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 14, 2020
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
(Subject to review and revision by the board)

The regular meeting of the Billings County School Board was called to order by President Joseph G. Kessel at 5:12 p.m. MT, Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at DeMores School in Medora, ND. Present on site were board members Eric Bock and Joey Kessel and Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw. Present via teleconference were board members Anita Adams, Kwirt Johnson, and Julie Reis and District Principal Shae Peplinski, Assistant Principal Danielle O'Brien, and Maintenance Supervisor Pete Hegge. Also present on site for all or part of the meeting were members of the public who called in to listen via phone access.

Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the March 10, 2020, regular meeting, the March 17, March 20, and March 27 special meetings and review of March 23 transportation committee Minutes, the payment list, financial reports, and the addition of three agenda items. All in favor.

Pete Hegge gave a written and oral maintenance report. The board asked him what the status of the DeMores landscape project was. He updated the board. Peplinski was temporarily disconnected from meeting at this time. The board asked Hegge to call David Shepherd of Shep's Construction to discuss next steps and timeline for completion.

The board considered how hourly staff should be handled during the Covid-19 school closures. Adams moved, Johnson seconded, to continue paying hourly staff at full pay during the school closure with the expectation that they would report to work as needed. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Bus contractor pay was considered by the board. Bock and Reis reported on their discussions with the various bus contractors. Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to compensate the bus contractors at 70% of their daily rate from April 1 through the end of school year while schools are closed. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski was reconnected with the conference. The title change for principals was discussed. Kessel reported to the board his discussion with NDSBA legal counsel, Amy De Kok. In her opinion, she recommended having a Superintendent. Administrative makeup was considered. A straw pole was taken as to what each board member would like to see. Kessel, Reis, and Adams would like to have a combination Superintendent/Principal at one building and a combination Assistant Superintendent/Principal at another school building. Bock and Johnson were more in favor of a combination Superintendent/Principal at one building and Principal at the second school building. Kessel asked the board members to come back to the next month's meeting with what expectations are with the roles and to obtain Superintendent and Principal job descriptions.

Peplinski reported that she, O'Brien, and Simnioniw video conferenced with Rita Ennen, Dickinson Public Library Director, regarding current contract. They requested a reduction in contract pay since the library is not staffed during closure due to Covid-19. Ennen stated she would reduce billing for staff wages and bookmobile costs. Ennen was also asked to present a proposal at the May board meeting for the 2020-21 contract year.

President Kessel reported he had completed the District Principal and Business Manager evaluations and both were good evaluations. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to approve the District Principal and Business Manager evaluations. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien were asked if they wished to hold off being issued a contract until the board had

completed negotiations with them if this wasn't completed by May 1. Both Peplinski and O'Brien stated they were agreeable to that.

O'Brien reported that there is one position open at Prairie. Interviews were being planned. She also discussed the online meetings with administrative leaders from across the state in dealing with Covid-19 issues and distance learning efforts. BCSD is up for school improvement review next year. The former AdvancEd name was changed to Cognia for school improvement. Sara Slaughter of Dickinson accepted an elementary education position in the District. Exact placement has not yet been determined.

The board reviewed the quarterly pledged assets report. Reis moved, Adams seconded, to approve the pledged assets report for March 30 noting that pledged assets were adequate to cover deposits. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw requested reimbursement for costs associated with adding internet data to her Verizon plan at \$34 per month and purchase of one set of printer ink cartridges due to added cost of working from home. Bock moved, Johnson seconded, to approve reimbursement of \$34 for the current month and the purchase of printer ink cartridges. Roll call vote with Reis and Kessel voting no and Johnson, Adams, and Bock voting yes. Motion carried. The board will consider additional coverage for internet data at a later date if need continues.

Simnioniw reported on webinars she's attended sponsored by Western Dakota Energy Association. Brent Boger, consultant for this organization, presented estimates of school and county funding impacts due to steep decline in oil prices. The school district could see a reduction of as much as \$144,000 in the next fiscal year. More information is being gathered specific to our school district and that information will be passed along to the board when it is available.

Simnioniw reported that Eric Bock is on the ballot, running unopposed for Director District 1 and Joey Kessel is on the ballot, running unopposed for Director District 2. The school board elections will be held in conjunction with Billings County and they are going to a mail-in ballot option only. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to rescind the motion made at the December 10, 2019, meeting to establish physical polling locations for the joint election with the County. Roll call vote with all in favor. Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to establish the June school board election as mail in only in conjunction with the County election. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw reported to the board that she had given notice of a special meeting for the call in conference call between Superintendent Baesler and school board members in regards to Covid-19 issues.

The board considered whether to hold negotiations or call for sealed bids for bus contracts as current contracts will expire the end of this school year. Adams moved, Reis seconded, to call for sealed bids for bus contractors for the 2020-21 through 2021-22 school years. Roll call vote with all in favor. The transportation committee (Bock and Reis) along with the school administrators will look at bus routes and have proposed routes with mileage for the board at the next meeting. This information will be needed for advertised bids as well.

The board considered the IT managed services contract with SMART Computers and discussed renewal. O'Brien stated that she and Honeyman would meet with SMART Computers staff to discuss contract terms moving forward and bring a proposal to the next board meeting.

The board was asked whether they wanted to establish essential staff in case a stay-at-home order was enacted during the Covid-19 epidemic. The board asked that more guidance be obtained in how to determine essential staff. Peplinski and O'Brien agreed to contact Amy Copas, Director of NDCEL, to see what her recommendations were in handling this.

Policies were reviewed. Kessel moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the second reading of policies ACEB Hazing, ACE Violent and Threatening Behavior, BAA Employing Board Members, BBBA

Officers of the Board, BBC Method of Filling a Board Vacancy, BCAB Board Meeting Procedures, and BCAC Minutes. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams moved, Bock seconded, to approve the first reading to amend policies FACA Placement & Adjustment of Transfer Students, DHA Licensure, BCBB-BR News Coverage of Board Meetings Regulations, and IDC Data Protection & Security Breaches. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Johnson moved, Adams seconded, to reaffirm policies ABCD Records Retention and BCBB News Coverage of Board Meetings. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Bock moved, Reis seconded, to rescind current policy FACB and approve first reading to adopt new FACB Student Transfer & Withdrawal Records. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams move, Johnson seconded, to approve the first reading to rescind policy LAC Relations with Colleges and Universities. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The board reviewed exhibits FACB-E1 Student Residency Verification, FACB-E2 Student Residency Checklist, ABCD-E1 Records Retention Schedule, IDC-E Security Breach Procedures, and DHA-E Notice of Expired/Invalid License.

Peplinski gave RESP report stating that the focus was currently on assisting school districts with their distance learning plans during Covid-19 school closures which were being submitted to DPI.

Simnioniw read a thank you card from the Arnold Rummel family for the flowers sent by the district.

President Kessel stated that the next item on the agenda is teacher negotiations strategy. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to discuss negotiations strategy in executive session rather than in an open meeting in accordance with NDCC Section 44-04-19.1(9). Roll call vote with all in favor. President Kessel stated that if there were any members of the public present, they would be asked to leave the room and it was anticipated that the meeting would reconvene at 8:20 p.m. The executive session began at 7:50 p.m. and was attended via teleconference by Anita Adams, Kwirt Johnson, Julie Reis, Shae Peplinski, and Danielle O'Brien. Present on-site were Joey Kessel, Eric Bock, and Tammy Simnioniw. The executive session was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened in open meeting.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference if restrictions due to Covid-19 are still in place.

Reis moved, Bock seconded, to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager