

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 11, 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 5:05 p.m. MT, Monday, May 11, 2020, via video conference. Present on site were board members Eric Bock and Joey Kessel and Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw. Present via video conference were board members Anita Adams, and Julie Reis. Kwirt Johnson was present for part of the meeting via teleconference. District Principal Shae Peplinski, Assistant Principal Danielle O'Brien, Maintenance Supervisor Pete Hegge, and Erika Honeyman were also present via video conference. Also present for all or part of the meeting were members of the public who called in to listen via phone access.

Reis moved, Bock seconded, to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes from the April 14 regular meeting, and the April 21, April 24, and April 29 special meetings, the payment list, financial reports, and the addition of two agenda items. All in favor.

Reis requested that the Business Manager receive prior approval from all board members, not just the board president, prior to incurring overtime.

Pete Hegge gave a written and oral maintenance report. Hegge and Peplinski updated the board on the status of the DeMores landscape project. Peplinski reported that the playground can be opened to the public, but signage stating the equipment was not sanitized would need to be posted.

Kwirt Johnson joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

The transportation committee members consisting of Bock, Reis, Peplinski, and O'Brien presented bus routes and mileage for bid letting. Adams moved, Bock seconded, to establish the bus routes as presented for the two-year period of 2020-2022. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien discussed the Managed IT Services contract proposal from SMART Computers. The proposal was to continue current services at current rate. It was O'Brien's recommendation to renew the contract. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to approve the IT support contract with SMART Computers for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that it would be necessary to still hold the strategic planning meeting and recommended holding it via a Zoom meeting open to the public at the June board meeting. Reis moved, Adams seconded, to establish the strategic planning date for 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that Tammy Nistler signed her contract and will teach at DeMores School. Sara Slaughter will teach at Prairie. Jamie Prellwitz has agreed to teach a combined Pre-K and Kindergarten class with assistance of a para professional. Peplinski read a resignation letter from Hailee Farstveet. Bock moved, Adams seconded, to accept the resignation. Roll call vote with all in favor. The board concurred with closing advertising for teaching position and to begin advertising for a para-professional for each school.

Peplinski proposed to the board that 8th grade graduation be held outdoors at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, at the Chuckwagon patio in Medora with only immediate family, board members, and staff invited. Pizza in individual to go boxes and bottled water would be provided at each family table. The ceremony will be live streamed on Facebook as well. The board concurred with these plans.

Peplinski reported that Rita Ennen, Executive Director for the Dickinson Public Library, requested whether the school district wished to have the libraries at DeMores and Prairie open to the public this summer. No decision was made at this time and it will be considered at the June 9 board meeting. It will remain closed until that time.

O'Brien presented the proposed curriculum for the 2020-21 school year. Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the curriculum as shown. Roll call vote with all in favor

The title change for the District Principal and Assistant Principal were discussed. Reis moved, Adams seconded, that the school district move forward with establishing positions of Superintendent/Building Principal and Assistant Superintendent/Building Principal. Bock expressed concern with establishing these positions before having job descriptions developed. Roll call vote was then taken with all in favor. Kessel and Johnson will meet with the two administrators to negotiate contract pay and contract days and will present recommendations at June board meeting.

Discussion on hourly staff wages began. Bock declared a conflict of interest and asked to be recused. Adams moved, Johnson seconded, to recognize the conflict of interest and recuse Bock from discussion and voting. Roll call vote with all in favor. Bock left the room during discussion. Kessel and Johnson reported that they had reviewed the Consumer Price Index from the January 2020 report and based off of that information, proposed a wage increase of 51 cents per hour for hourly staff. Reis moved, Adams seconded, to accept the recommendation of Kessel and Johnson and increase wages by 51 cents per hour. Roll call vote with Adams, Johnson, Kessel, and Reis in favor. Bock returned to the meeting.

Johnson left the meeting at this point (6:32 p.m.).

Simnioniw provided the board with the P-Card rebate report. It was noted that Billings County School District received a \$9,030.52 rebate. Simnioniw also reported that the Special Reserve Fund value was \$9,072.30 less than what was allowed and asked the board if they wanted to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Special Reserve fund. The board decided against the transfer. It was also reported that the District would need to find a new auditor. Various options were presented by Simnioniw. She was requested by the board to obtain quotes from the various accounting firms. The results will be provided to the board at the June meeting.

O'Brien and Honeyman presented a proposed budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Adams moved, Bock seconded, to approve the technology budget as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Kessel discussed the need for the school district to have an attorney retained for any issues that could potentially occur. Peplinski and Simnioniw will send out a request on the school email list serves for recommendations from other schools.

Policies presented for a second reading included FACA Placement & Adjustment of Transfer Students, DHA Licensure, IDC Data Protection & Security Breaches, and FACB Student Transfer & Withdrawal Records. Adams moved, Reis seconded, to table the second reading until the June meeting where it may be necessary to amend these policies due to the title change of the administrators. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski gave the RESP report.

Correspondence from Charity Fetch and ND School Board's Association was read by the board.

President Kessel commended the staff on their efforts for the May Day parade.

The next meeting date was established for Tuesday, June 9 at 5:00 p.m. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Recorded by Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager