

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 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 Joey Kessel at 5:02 p.m. MT, Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at the DeMores School in Medora. Present on site were board members Eric Bock, Kwirt Johnson, Joey Kessel, and Julie Reis. Also present on site for all or part of the meeting were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, Dana Tescher, Jessie Berger, Amy and Blake McCann, Tammy Nistler, Chelsea Raaen, Jan Kuchera, and Jennifer Sitter.

Reis moved, Bock seconded, to approve the consent agenda with the addition of three agenda items. All in favor.

Peplinski reported on DeMores Landscaping project. Underground irrigation is now complete and ground preparation and seeding will now begin. Project should be completed by August 31. Joey Kessel inspected the Prairie School roof and concurred with adjuster that it was heavily damaged from hail storm and needed to be replaced. The board was provided information from adjuster on insurance settlement. The Glade roof was not inspected, so Simnioniw contacted the adjuster and he will inspect that as well.

Peplinski reported that four applicants for maintenance position had been interviewed and recommended hiring Bob Hushka at \$27 per hour due to his experience and to allow use of school pickup to and from work since he is centrally located between schools. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to offer the position to Bob Hushka at an hourly rate of \$26 per hour for 90 day probationary period after which time, if candidate is deemed successful in this position, hourly rate increased to \$27 per hour. Motion also included allowing use of pickup to and from work. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski requested an increase to District Secretary wage due to the responsibilities. Eric Bock declared conflict of interest at this point and removed himself from discussion and acting on a decision. Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to increase DeeAnn Bock's wages from \$19.27 per hour to \$20 per hour. Roll call vote with Johnson, Reis, and Kessel voting in favor.

Simnioniw reported that the public input meeting regarding the 2020-21 school budget needs to be held after September 7. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to rescind the motion from the July 21, 2020, meeting to establish the public input meeting for August 11, 2020. Roll call vote with all in favor. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to establish the public input meeting date for the 2020-21 budget to be on September 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at DeMores School in Medora. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that there were two tuition waiver requests allowing open enrollment into DeMores School of four students from the Beach School District. Peplinski recommended that due to Covid-19 CDC guidelines, the request be denied so that social distancing in classrooms is possible. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to deny this request per Peplinski's recommendation. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien presented the school reopening plan. Kessel moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the Billings County Health and Safety Plan for ND Smart Restart with one change noted. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Chelsea Raaen requested that approximately 7 days of donated leave be allowed during her childcare leave. Simnioniw noted that IRS code requires donated leave to be taxed by both donor and recipient

with exceptions for major medical or major disaster. Reis moved, Bock seconded, to allow 6 days of donated sick leave for Chelsea Raaen for the 2020-21 school year, acknowledging tax implications for both parties involved (donor and recipient). Roll call vote with all in favor. The board concurred that further requests will not be considered until new policy regarding donated leave is in place.

Jessie Berger gave a maintenance report regarding completed and pending projects. Discussed need to rewire a classroom at DeMores to bring it to code. Board asked that this be scheduled as soon as possible without disrupting class.

Simnioniw noted that Tom Hutzenbiler filled in a day to check over the systems and is agreeable to train the new maintenance staff person. In the past, he was paid his ending hourly wage plus mileage. The board concurred with this arrangement again.

Peplinski reported that Krista Lund withdrew from the DeMores para-professional position and recommended hiring Rachel Rising at \$16 per hour for this position with expectation that para certification be obtained with no additional wage increase upon completion of certification. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to hire Rachel Rising at \$16 per hour with no increase once para certification is obtained. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Kessel moved, Reis seconded, to re-establish Kathy Solga's wage at \$16 per hour with expectation that para certification be obtained with no wage increase once certification is obtained. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski, O'Brien, Simnioniw, and DeeAnn Bock obtained Title IX training. Each participant must have a specific role. Peplinski recommended Tammy Simnioniw as Title IX Coordinator, Danielle O'Brien as Investigator, Shae Peplinski as Decision maker, and DeeAnn Bock as informal resolution facilitator. The Title IX Coordinator needs to be acted upon by the board. Johnson moved, Bock seconded, to designate Tammy Simnioniw as Title IX Coordinator. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski asked for clarification on Policy IEAC Busing and Family Transportation regarding family transportation for high schoolers when school in Billings County is not in session and to which location family transportation will be paid. The policy committee will try to clarify the language in the policy and bring it back to the board to amend. At this time, it was determined that family transportation is paid to nearest bus stop (school selection not a factor) or nearest school, whichever is closest.

The board reviewed the Whistleblower protection policy ACF.

Reis moved, Bock seconded, to call for propane bids for period of September 9, 2020, through August 31, 2021. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The effective resignation date for John (Pete) Hegge was revisited by the board. The board determined that since all school property was turned in on July 21 with no intent to return to work, the effective resignation date was July 21, 2020.

Peplinski gave RESP report and noted that bus driver training information was sent to all bus drivers.

Policies were reviewed. Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to approve the first reading to amend policies DDA Sick Leave, ACBA Automatic External Defibrillators, DBAA Recruitment, Hiring, and Background Checks, BBBA Officers of the Board, CBAA Administrative Regulations, CBAB Administration in Policy Absence, DBAC Recruiting and Hiring Teachers, DCB Overtime and Compensatory Time, DKBD Teacher Discharge for Cause and to waive the second reading per policy BDA. Roll call vote with all in favor.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager