

BILLINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 13, 2021
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 Joey Kessel at 5:05 p.m. MT, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at the DeMores School in Medora. Present on site were board members Anita Adams, Eric Bock, Kwirt Johnson, Joey Kessel, and Julie Reis. Also onsite were Superintendent Shae Peplinski, Assistant Superintendent Danielle O'Brien, Business Manager Tammy Simnioniw, and for part of the meeting Maintenance Supervisor Bob Huska, and Erika Honeyman.

Adams moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the consent agenda with the addition of one policy addition. All in favor.

Simnioniw reported that the bid opening for the Prairie Roof Project was rescheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at DeMores School in Medora.

Bob Hushka provided a written maintenance report and discussed various maintenance issues. Peplinski reported that she has been in contact with Shep's Construction to complete the DeMores landscaping project as soon as school is out. Hushka requested that the excess property discussion be tabled until May meeting. The board concurred.

Kessel and Johnson reported on the finance committee meetings they had held which included negotiations with the Superintendents. They reported that that they were recommending to the board for each the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent a 200 day contract with 13 days sick leave, 8 days personal leave, eliminate funeral leave, and an increase of \$2,250 to salary. Also recommended was an addendum to Peplinski's contract for Special Ed Coordinator lowering from \$7,000 to \$3,500 for the 2021-22 school year and keeping the addendum for O'Brien's assistant tech coordinator role at \$4,000 for the 2021-22 school year. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to approve the recommendation of the finance committee as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Kessel and Johnson provided information on various options for raises for classified staff. Bock declared a conflict of interest and requested to abstain from discussion and voting on this matter. Johnson moved, Adams seconded, to recognize the conflict of interest and concur with Bock's request to abstain. Roll call vote with all in favor. After review and discussion of the options presented, Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to provide an increase of 1.5% to each individual's wage effective for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote with Adams, Johnson, Kessel, and Reis voting in favor.

O'Brien informed the board that Kathy Solga had agreed to move from para position to preschool teacher at Prairie for the 2021-22 school year. O'Brien proposed an hourly wage of \$18 per hour for the preschool teaching position. Adams moved, Bock seconded, to hire Kathy Solga as preschool teacher and accept the wage recommendation as proposed. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski reported that Marina Redig had agreed to teach summer school again this summer and requested a wage of \$21 per hour. Johnson moved, Adams seconded, to approve the recommendation. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Peplinski and O'Brien reported on various upcoming events. O'Brien discussed with the board what would be an appropriate notice for classified staff to give for resignation. It was the consensus of the board that a two-week notice would be appropriate.

The board reviewed the quarterly pledged assets report from First State Bank of Golva. Reis moved, Adams seconded, to approve the report noting that pledges were adequate to cover deposits for the period ending March 30, 2021. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Simnioniw provided the board with the credit card rebate report which listed school districts and level of use and rebate obtained. Billings County School district utilizes the credit card as much as possible to optimize the amount of rebate received. It is a rebate of approximately 1.8% on the amount of the purchases.

The board considered the wage amount currently paid for substitutes for cooks, secretaries, and custodians. No action was taken to increase the amount which is currently \$14 per hour.

O'Brien reported that the transportation committee consisting of Bock, Reis, Peplinski, and O'Brien met to review district bus routes. O'Brien informed the board that there were capacity issues on the Fairfield routes, having more students than bus capacity. More committee meetings will be held to further explore options and more information will be provided to the board at a future date.

O'Brien and Erika Honeyman presented a proposed technology budget for the 2021-22 school year. Bock moved, Reis seconded, to approve the proposed budget as presented. Roll call vote with all in favor.

O'Brien reported that there would be a student council conference in Bismarck on April 26. There are seven girls interested in attending. It would require an overnight stay and O'Brien was willing to chaperone. Reis moved, Johnson seconded, to approve the overnight stay for the students attending the student council conference. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The following policies were reviewed and acted upon. Adams moved, Bock seconded, to approve the second reading of FAAB Early Entrance Requirements, FAAC Enrollment of Suspended or Expelled Students, FC Student Safety and Supervision, FCAA Accommodating Students with Allergies and Special Dietary Needs, FCAD Student Accidents, FCBA Student Dismissal Precautions, FCBB Student Transportation Safety and Supervision, and FCBD Student Custody. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams moved, Johnson seconded, to rescind policies DEAF Occupational Safety and DDBE Families First Coronavirus Response Act Leave. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams moved, Reis seconded, to approve the first reading to amend policies DDDC Exchange Teaching, DDEA Jury & Witness Duty, DE Staff Code of Conduct, DEAD Staff Use of Electronic Devices, DEBA Confidentiality, DEBB Conflict of Interest, DEBE Employee Relations with Vendors, DEBF Employee Speech, and DED Administrative Leave & Suspension. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams moved, Bock seconded, to approve the first reading to adopt new policies DEAE Occupational Safety, DEAG Weapons Prohibition on School Property – Employees, DEBH Employee Use of Social Media, DEBJ Unauthorized Purchases, and DECA Outside Employment. Roll call vote with all in favor.

Adams moved, Johnson seconded, to reaffirm policies DDDD Professional Organization Leave, DEAC Staff Dress Code, DEBC Gifts to District Personnel, and DECB Staff Participation in Community Activities. Roll call vote with all in favor.

The board reviewed exhibits and administrative regs as follows: DDDC-AR Criteria for Participating in Exchange Teaching, DDDC-E Criteria for Accepting Foreign Teachers, DEAE-AR Hazardous Substance Communication Program, and DEAE-E Employee Safety Orientation Checklist.

Adams and Peplinski reported there was no RESP meeting so nothing to report.

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The board reviewed correspondence from Boy Scouts of America and a thank you from the family of Marilyn Carlson (Jackie Wolf's mother).

A special meeting will be held Thursday, April 22, in Medora for bid opening for Prairie Roof Project. The next regular school board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at DeMores School in Medora. The meeting will begin with a walk-through around facility and grounds.

Johnson moved, Reis seconded, to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Joey Kessel, President

Tammy Simnioniw, Business Manager